

HOW TO MAKE A DUCK-SHOOT. By J. WENTWORTH DAY

COUNTRY LIFE

On Sale Friday

DECEMBER 29, 1944

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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL. XCVI. No. 2502.

DECEMBER 29, 1944

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

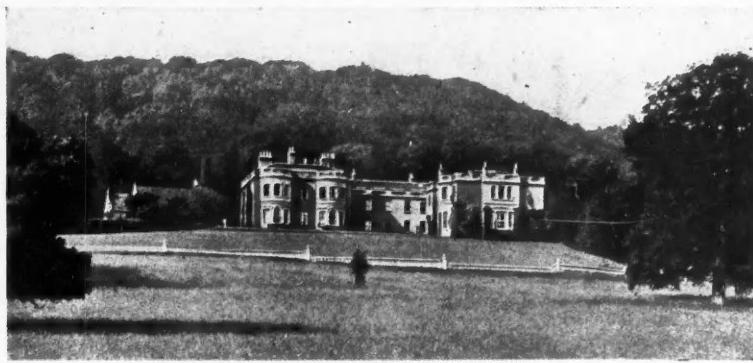
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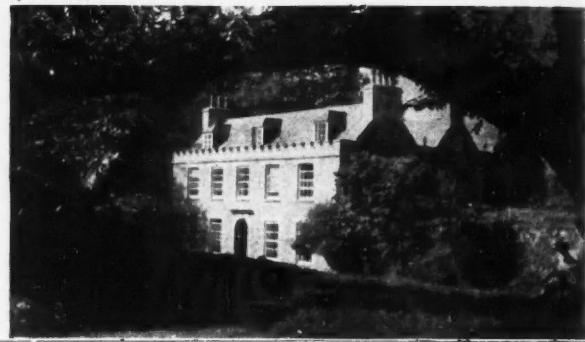
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TOTAL AREA 136 ACRES
FOR SALE FREEHOLD

WITH VACANT POSSESSION OF THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS.
PENDING A SALE THE OWNER WOULD CONSIDER LETTING THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS ON A FURNISHED TENANCY

Full particulars of JACKSON STOPS & STAFF, 8, Hanover Street, London, W.1 (Mayfair 3316/7)

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WINKWORTH & CO.

48, CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON, W.1

ASCOT, BERKS

On high ground with open view. Almost adjoining golf course.

A VERY ATTRACTIVE MODERN RESIDENCE



8 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms, hall, 4 reception rooms.
Main services. Fitted basins. Central heating.

GARAGE FOR 2-3 CARS WITH CHAUFFEUR'S ROOM.

WELL-TIMBERED GARDENS AND GROUNDS ABOUT

4 ACRES FOR SALE.

POSSESSION AFTER THE WAR

Sole Agents: WINKWORTH & CO., 48, Curzon Street, London, W.1.

BERKS

5 miles from Newbury.



AN ATTRACTIVE GEORGIAN COUNTRY HOUSE

7 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms. Electricity and water from Co.s' mains, gas, 8c. b.s.

THE GROUNDS INCLUDE PADDOCK AND GARDEN, GRASS TENNIS COURT, EXCELLENT KITCHEN GARDEN WITH SMALL GREENHOUSE, AND EXTEND IN ALL TO ABOUT 5 ACRES

HUNTING, SHOOTING AND FISHING IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

FOR SALE FREEHOLD. £6,000 OR OPEN TO OFFER
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ANNOUNCE THAT IN ADDITION TO THEIR NORMAL SALES IN THE GALLERIES EACH FRIDAY DURING JANUARY
A SPECIAL SALE OF SILVER, PLATE, CHINA, FURS AND ORIENTAL RUGS
 WILL BE HELD IN THE
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 Goods for this Sale can be accepted up to JANUARY 8.

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ABOUT 3 ACRES.

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IMMEDIATE POSSESSION.

Birmingham 13 miles, Derby 14 miles. Outskirts of Market Town, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile Station.



A well constructed and comfortable residence in sheltered position, 500 ft. up, South aspect, sandy soil, lovely country and views. Lounge hall, 3 reception, 9 bed, 2 bathrooms, tiled kitchen. Central heating. All main services. Telephone. Garage 3-4 cars, stabling for 5 horses, cottage, modern bungalow, 2 barns.

PLEASURE GARDENS of 5 acres form a feature. Tennis courts, woodland dell, SWIMMING POOL. Productive kitchen garden, fruit of all varieties, vineyard, glasshouses, etc. 37 acres arable, $2\frac{1}{2}$ grass.

About 46 ACRES.
 About 2,100 ft. road frontages,
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4 MILES FROM READING

IMPORTANT MAIN ROAD FRONTAGE. VALUABLE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

SALE OF THAT WELL-PLACED ESTATE known as

STANBURY, SPENCERS WOOD

WITH GRANDLY PLACED RESIDENCE IN A COMMANDING POSITION (Requisitioned). 2 ENTRANCE LODGES, 3 OTHER COTTAGES. STABLING. BLOCK OF LOOSE BOXES. PARKLANDS, WOODLANDS AND AGRICULTURAL LAND.

In all 100 ACRES

INCOME (ACTUAL AND ESTIMATED) £476 8 0 PER ANNUM

Will be SOLD by AUCTION as a whole, or in Lots, by Messrs. NICHOLAS (unless Sold Privately in the meanwhile), in Reading, on Thursday, January 4, 1945

Particulars and plan of Messrs. BLANDY & BLANDY, 1, Friar Street, Reading; and of the Auctioneers, 1, Station Road, Reading, and 4, Albany Court Yard, Piccadilly, W.1.

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Between East Grinstead and Three Bridges.

17th-CENTURY RED BRICK AND TILED COUNTRY RESIDENCE, modernised and in first-rate order. Southern aspect. High situation. Rural surroundings but not isolated. Hall and 2 sitting rooms, 5-6 bedrooms, bathroom. Main electricity. Company's water. Fine old barn and 2 garages. Orchard and meadow bounded by stream. Tennis lawn. Total area about 6 ACRES. Early Vacant Possession. PRICE, FREEHOLD, £5,50. Sole Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, London, S.W.1. (L.R.16,213)

WEST KENT

165 ACRES. 2 Cottages. £10,250. Southern aspect, splendid views over unspoiled country. Vacant possession of residence at once. Sporting rights in hand. 4 sitting rooms, 8 bedrooms, 1 dressing room, 3 bathrooms. Main electricity. Central heating. Main water. Oak-beamed barn. Stabling and garage. MOST ATTRACTIVE PROPOSITION

PRICE £8,000 OR NEAR OFFER

VERY LOW PRICE

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Convenient for Alton, Odham, Basingstoke and Farnham.

EARLY VACANT POSSESSION.

XVth CENTURY FARMHOUSE RESIDENCE

MODERNISED AND IN SPLENDID ORDER.

Built of red brick, tiled roof, gabled with clustered chimneys and wall timbers; altogether presenting a most attractive exterior, also possessing fine oak beams. Open fireplaces, 400 ft. above sea level, near village and bus service, domestic labour available. Small hall, gent's cloakroom, 2 sitting rooms, 5-6 bedrooms (basins), fine bathroom. Esse cooker. Main electricity and power throughout. Company's water. Telephone. Independent hot water. Modern drainage. Double garage with fine room over, also other outbuildings. Attractive garden and paddock, about

2-2½ ACRES in all. PRICE £6,500 FREEHOLD

Inspected and thoroughly recommended by Owner's Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, London, S.W.1. (L.R.20,848)

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COUNTRY RESIDENCE, possessing distinctive character, situated in a lovely district, modernised and in good order. 4 sitting rooms, 11 bedrooms (lavatory basins), 3 bathrooms, servants' hall, electric light and central heating. Cottage, stabling and garage. ABOUT 36 ACRES. Splendid sporting district. PRICE, FREEHOLD, £12,000. Owner's Agents: JAMES STYLES AND WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, London, S.W.1. (L.R.12,105.)

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80 ACRES. £12,000. (Might be divided.)

FOR SALE, A WELL-EQUIPPED COUNTRY RESIDENCE convenient for Cheltenham and 1 mile from lovely old town. Hall, 4 sitting-rooms, billiards room, 15 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms. Main water, gas, electricity available. Stabling and garage. Lodge and cottage. Land of 80 ACRES (17 orchard). Eminently suitable for School or similar purpose. Owner's Agents: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, London, S.W.1. (L.R. 20,686)



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Within easy reach of Guildford and Horsham.

A DIGNIFIED JACOBEAN RESIDENCE STANDING IN A PARK OF ABOUT 100 ACRES



PRICE FREEHOLD £18,000

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XVIth-CENTURY STONE-BUILT VILLAGE HOUSE



PRICE FREEHOLD £2,950

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AUCTION

MINEHEAD

North Hill. Overlooking sea. AUCTION JANUARY 15, 1945. Detached Residence called THORNFALCON. 2 reception rooms, kitchen, etc., 5 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, bathroom. Garage. Good garden. Vacant possession. Auctioneer: HEDLEY RENDELL, The Parade, Minehead.

FOR SALE

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BUCKS. NORTH. Compact Queen Anne Mansion. For sale with vacant possession. 4 reception, 8 bedrooms. Central heating. All main services. Gardens, paddocks, 2 cottages, stabling. Also Manor Farm adjoining, 211 acres, let, house would be sold separately.—Particulars from Messrs. DRIVERS JONAS AND CO. Ltd., 7, Charles II Street, St. James's Square, S.W.1, and Messrs. WIGLEY & JOHNSON, Bletchley, Bucks.

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Within 50 miles of London. Possession on de-requisition, purchasers to take Dilapidation moneys. Well-appointed Residence, part dating 1655. 4 reception, 8 bed, 2 bath, exceptional offices, garage, outbuildings, playroom, 2 greenhouses, cowhouse, paddock, excellent fruit garden, in all 4 acres. Price £4,500.

Old Manor, re-built and modernised, delightful situation. 4 reception, 10 bed, 2 bath, good domestic quarters. Extensive stabling and garages, cottage, farmery, glasshouses, walled garden, bungalow lodge. Meadow land, total area 38 acres. Main electric. Price £6,500.

Exceptionally well fitted Residence of character between Halstead and Colchester. Entrance conservatory 42 ft. by 12 ft., 4 reception, 12 bed, 2 dressing, 3 bath, fine extensive offices. 8 car garages, Queen Anne stabling, glasshouses. One of the finest gardens in Essex. 2 modern cottages. Meadowland. 18½ acres in all. Price £6,500.—Further particulars of the Sole Agent: STANLEY MOGER, O.B.E., F.A.I., Halstead.

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NEAR HATFIELD, HERTS

400 ft. up. Station 1 mile.

8 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms.

Central heating. Company's mains.

Garage, stabling.

2 cottages.

Gardens and 3 paddocks in all about

10 ACRES



PRICE FREEHOLD £7,500

Agents: HAMPTON & SONS, LTD., 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1 (Tel.: REG. 8222). (R.2189.)

On ST. GEORGE'S HILL, and adjoining Golf Course

FINE VIEWS OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY

Under 2 miles of Station with fast electric train service to London.

LOVELY MODERN RESIDENCE

of pleasing elevation luxuriously fitted and equipped.

Hall, 3 fine reception rooms, sun lounge, cocktail bar, 8 bedrooms (fitted basins), 4 bathrooms. All main services. Central heating. Labour-saving devices.

2 lodges. Garages.

The beautiful grounds with swimming pool and hard tennis court are a special feature and extend to about

7 ACRES



PRICE ON APPLICATION

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Grosvenor 3131 (3 lines)
Established 1875

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Within a few miles of a Main Line Station and under 45 miles from London.

MODERN RESIDENCE

500 feet up.

Lounge hall, 3 reception rooms,
12 bed and dressing rooms, 5
bathrooms.

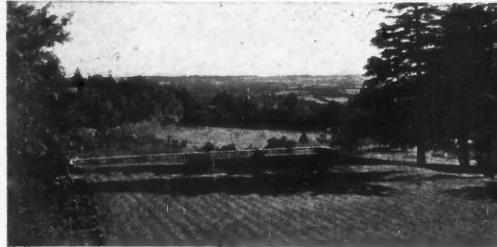
MODERN DOMESTIC OFFICES.

2 OR 3 COTTAGES.

LARGE GARAGE.

CO.'S WATER & ELECTRICITY.

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BEAUTIFULLY TIMBERED GROUNDS ON A SOUTHERN SLOPE WITH EXTENSIVE VIEWS.

FOR SALE WITH ABOUT 31 ACRES

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23, MOUNT ST.,
OSVENOR SQ., LONDON, W.1

WILSON & CO.

Grosvenor
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RURAL BERKSHIRE



LOVELY QUEEN ANNE MANOR in delightful old gardens and park. Full of character and beautifully appointed. 13 beds. 5 baths, 4 reception. Stabling. Garage. 2 cottages.

FOR SALE WITH 100 ACRES
WITH VACANT POSSESSION

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FINEST POSITION IN SURREY

Lovely country south of Guildford and Dorking. 700 ft. up, with magnificent views for 25 miles.BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED TUDOR REPLICA.
12 beds, 5 baths, 4 reception. Oak floors, tiled offices. Main services, central heating. Garage and flat; 2 cottages. Finely timbered grounds, pasture, etc. 15 ACRES.

FOR SALE with post-war possession.

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Lovely position, an hour from London.BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED MODERN HOUSE
OF GREAT CHARM. In perfect order, with every comfort and convenience. 12 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 4 reception. Garages. 3 cottages. Lovely gardens, pasture and woodland. At present Let. Possession after the war.

40 ACRES. FOR SALE

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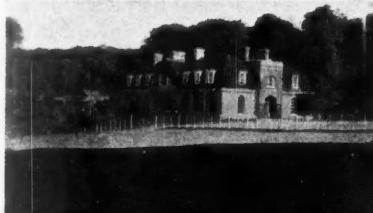
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THIS MOST ATTRACTIVE MEDIUM-SIZED RESIDENCE*The subject of considerable expenditure.*

Standing in well-timbered grounds of about

76 ACRES

at an altitude of about 300 feet.

10 bed and dressing rooms, 5 bathrooms, 5 reception rooms, billiard room, lounge hall, compact offices. Garages for 4. Stabling for 4. Barn, 2 cottages. Central heating. Lavatory basins in most bedrooms.

MAIN ELECTRICITY. EXCELLENT WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE.
ATTRACTIVE GARDENS. VALUABLE TIMBER.

FREEHOLD, PRICE £9,000

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SURREY—SUSSEX BORDERSTHIS BEAUTIFULLY SITUATED MANSION ON THE CREST OF A RIDGE,
with panoramic views to South.

400 ft. above sea level. 33 miles

London, 2 miles county town.

Close bus routes.

24 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, extensive lavatories and changing rooms, 5 large reception rooms. Chapel. Squash court. Gymnasium. Swimming pool. Stabling, garages. Lodge and cottages.

Central heating throughout. Main electricity, gas and water. First-class cricket and football ground.

ABOUT 40 ACRES
FREEHOLD £16,000A CHARMING SMALL SECONDARY RESIDENCE AND ABOUT 4 ACRES
CAN BE PURCHASED, IF DESIRED, FOR £4,000
Post-war occupation

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ESTATE OFFICES, GODALMING & 4, CASTLE ST., FARNHAM

By Order of the Dowager Lady Fox.

FAVOURITE PUTTENHAM

On the Southern slopes of the Hog's Back between Guildford and Farnham. Under an hour from London.

A VERY CHOICE MODERN RESIDENCE

Due South aspect. Lovely distant views.

Expensively constructed of Bargate stone with oak window frames and Crittall leaded light windows. Limed oak joinery and floors throughout.

5 principal bedrooms, 4 principal bathrooms, 5 staff bedrooms, staff bathroom, hall, 3 beautiful reception rooms, deep loggia, complete and modern domestic offices.

CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT. MAIN ELECTRICITY AND WATER.

MODERN DRAINAGE.

GARAGE FOR 2-3 CARS. CHAUFFEUR'S COTTAGE, ENTRANCE LODGE. PERFECTLY MATURED GARDENS AND GROUNDS WITH PADDOCK AND SMALL WOOD.

IN ALL ABOUT 11 ACRES

FOR SALE (subject to the existing requisitioning by Surrey County Council) at
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KENT

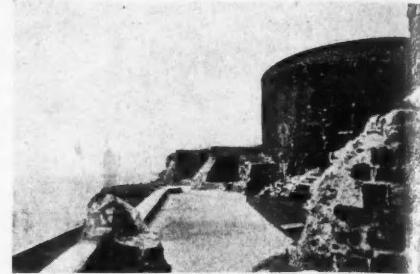
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Facing south, overlooking the sea, with private beach and the ruins of an historic castle in the grounds. Within easy reach of the Continent and little over an hour from London under normal conditions.

The accommodation comprises 7 principal bed and dressing rooms, 2 principal bathrooms, Turkish bath, 3 reception rooms and sun room. Secondary accommodation including bathroom, passenger lift.

3 garages. Other useful outbuildings. Main services. Central heating. Telephone. 1 ACRE OF LAWNS, FLOWER GARDEN, etc., including the CASTLE RUINS. VACANT POSSESSION OF THE HOUSE. THE CASTLE GROUNDS ARE REQUISITIONED.



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(2003)

3. MOUNT ST.,
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Grosvenor
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SECLUDED AND UNSPOILT PART OF ESSEX

Colchester 12 miles. Handy for three well-known Coastal Resorts.

MELLOWED RED BRICK HOUSE OF DISTINCTION

DATING FROM XVTH CENTURY

Completely surrounded by privately-owned farmland. Station and shops about a mile. Avenue (chase) approach.

3 reception, billiard room annexe, 8 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Completely redecorated throughout. Main electricity and water. Central heating. Garages, Stabling.

FULLY MATURED GARDENS AND ORCHARD.

PRICE FREEHOLD £5,500

IMMEDIATE VACANT POSSESSION.

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Further particulars and photographs (where possible) of these and other Properties for disposal can be obtained from RALPH PAY & TAYLOR, as above.

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Near Tadworth. Convenient for Walton Heath and Banstead Golf Courses.

A WELL BUILT HOUSE

9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, compact offices.

GARAGE WITH FLAT OVER.

CENTRAL HEATING.

COMPANIES' ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER. MAIN DRAINAGE.



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WELL LAID OUT GARDEN
in all

ABOUT 1½ ACRES

PRICE £6,500 Freehold

VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

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BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY

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JUST AVAILABLE

GENTLEMAN'S FARMING
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NEAR LUDLOW AND TENBURY WELLS. Holding a fine position and comprising 230 ACRES very sound well-watered land (134 grass). Very good Stone Residence, 2 large reception, 6 bed (lavatory basins), bath. Central heating. Secondary Farmhouse, cottage and good buildings. All in excellent condition. FREEHOLD, £12,500. Just available.

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17 MILES OUT IN SURREY. IN A LOVELY POSITION
While near the village, shops and buses, yet commanding uninterrupted views over the

BUILT IN THE DUTCH STYLE.
In absolutely perfect order with parquet floors, oak and brick fireplaces, etc. Central heating. Fitted basins and all main services. Hall, 2 reception, 5 bed, bath. Garage for 2 cars. MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDENS. Exhibition standard roses and carnations. Extensive rockeries of choice alpines. Paved terraces, tennis lawn, miniature 9-hole putting green. Large fully stocked kitchen garden. Soft fruit in prime condition and orchard of 100 trees, together with paddock.

3½ ACRES. POSSESSION. FREEHOLD
This charming property is only just offered. It is certain to be sold quickly. Your immediate inspection is advised.

GENTLEMAN'S DEVON
FARM

Near EXETER and NEWTON ABBOT

AMIDST LOVELY COUNTRY, beautiful views, 131 ACRES (90 grass with stream). Good house having 6 bed, bath, electric light. Ample stone buildings. FREEHOLD, ONLY £5,500. OPEN OFFER

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THIS ATTRACTIVE PERIOD HOUSE

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With 11 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hall and 2 reception rooms. Open fireplaces and Mill stone hearths in the reception rooms. Radiators throughout.



Large barn converted into garage for several cars.

Another barn for storage and chauffeur's room

EXCELLENT COTTAGE.

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3 ACRES

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STABLING FOR 9 HUNTERS.
GARAGE.

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LOVELY GROUNDS ON A SOUTHERN SLOPE, ABOUT 100 ACRES OF WOODLANDS, 130 ACRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND, IN ALL ABOUT

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PART OF THE HOUSE AND BUILDINGS ARE REQUISITIONED.



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Illustrated particulars of JOHN D. WOOD & Co., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1 (72,133).

Regent
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WITH DELIGHTFUL STONE-BUILT MANOR HOUSE, FACING SOUTH

THE WHOLE IN A GOOD STATE OF REPAIR.

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A GENUINE SMALL OLD-WORLD XVIth CENTURY THATCHED RESIDENCE

WITH ALL MODERN CONVENiences AND COMFORTS.

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4 ACRES

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FOX & SONS, Land Agents, Bournemouth.

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1½ miles from a market town and about 14 miles from Bournemouth.

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COTTAGE. SHELTERED GARDENS AND GROUNDS, LAWN, WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN, FRUIT TREES, COPSE, MEADOWLANDS.

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MOST PLEASANT COUNTRY HOUSE

3 reception, 4 bedrooms, bathroom.

Electric light. Gravitation water. Garage for 2 cars. Good outbuildings.

PLEASANT GARDEN AND ABOUT 20 ACRES OF LAND

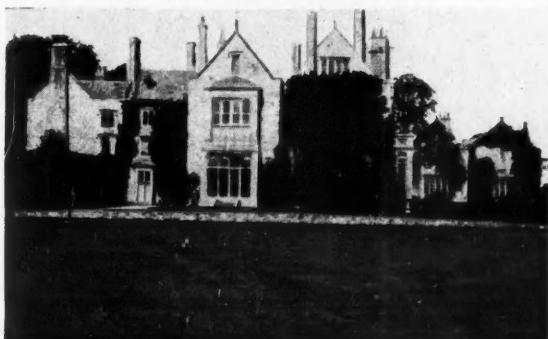
THROUGH WHICH FLOWS A SMALL TROUTING STREAM.

FREEHOLD, £3,250

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OFFICES

West Byfleet
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Contiguous to common lands and woods, and only 5 minutes' walk from Station.



ATTRACTIVE, WELL-EQUIPPED HOUSE

3 reception, sun lounge, 6 bedrooms, 1 dressing room, 2 bathrooms. All mains. Partial central heating.

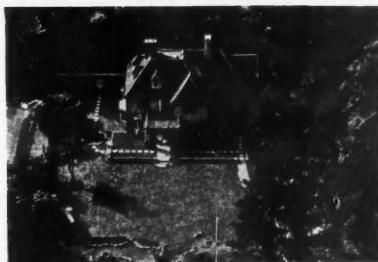
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Only about 12 miles North-west of Town.

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Co.'s services. Central heating. Garage 2 cars.

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SUBSTANTIAL STONE AND BRICK RESIDENCE

3 reception, conservatory, sun lounge, 11 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maids' sitting room. All main services.

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F.A.I., F.V.A.

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EARLY GEORGIAN RESIDENCE

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arranged on two floors only.

ALL MAIN SERVICES.
CENTRAL HEATING.

EXTENSIVE BUILDINGS INCLUDING
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CHAUFFEUR'S FLAT. WALLED GAR-
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FREEHOLD FOR SALE

with or without several adjacent paddocks, the
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BERKSHIRE. Cookham Dean. Fascinating small
Farmhouse. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms,
Electricity, etc. Barn, stabling, garage. **1½ ACRES**
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dozen bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms.
ELECTRICITY, CENTRAL HEATING. Many fine period
features. Lovely walled pleasure gardens. Stabling, garage.
Cottage, Paddock. In all about **10 ACRES. FREEHOLD**
FOR SALE AT ONLY £8,500 with Post-war Possession.
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BERKSHIRE. High open position. 28 miles London.
Very comfortable Modern Residence, contains 6 bed-
rooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms. **CENTRAL HEATING,** **ELECTRICITY, CONSTANT HOT WATER,** **TELEPHONE.** Double garage. Remarkably attractive
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supporting) and small meadow, in all about **3 ACRES.**
FREEHOLD FOR SALE, with Possession at Lady Day,
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LAND AGENTS. EFFINGHAM PARK ESTATE OFFICE, COPTHORNE,
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Standing in an elevated position secluded from the road, with excellent views across the adjoining countryside, yet within easy reach of road and rail services.

THE HOUSE stands on high ground surrounded by timbered parkland approached by two drives bordered by specimen trees and shrubs. It contains: Entrance and inner halls, 5 reception rooms, good domestic offices, etc., 13 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Central heating, electric light and power, private water supply. Attractive gardens and grounds with lake and shrubberies, good kitchen gardens, and well-built out-buildings with chauffeur's and gardener's flats, and an excellent range of model farm buildings. VACANT POSSESSION.

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DEVON. 600 ft. up. 10 miles Barnstaple. Lovely views. **CHARMING COUNTRY
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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XCVI. No. 2502

DECEMBER 29, 1944



Yvonne Gregory

THE HON. MRS J. J. ASTOR

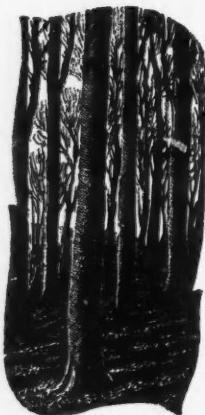
Mrs. Astor, who was, before her marriage last October, Señorita Ana Ines de Cárcano, is the second daughter of Dr. Miguel Angel de Cárcano, Argentine Ambassador to Britain, and Senora Stella de Morra de Cárcano. Her husband is the youngest son of Viscount and Viscountess Astor

COUNTRY LIFE

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LOCAL REPRESENTATION

THE Representation of the People Bill gives much-needed opportunities for reinvigorating local government, which certainly have not been realised in the unimaginative measure introduced just before Christmas. Some Bill is rendered necessary by the suspension during the war of local government elections. Casual vacancies have been filled without contests and, though many good citizens have no doubt found an opportunity for war service in accepting nomination to sit on the local council, it is not likely to be seriously maintained that the prestige of most authorities has been greatly enhanced by the members they have temporarily co-opted. Under the Bill members co-opted to fill casual vacancies will be compulsorily retired in November, 1945, and elections will be held to fill the vacancies caused. Members who were elected in 1936 will also automatically retire and come up, if they desire, for re-election. Representation will in fact be resumed exactly where it was left off, a fact which renders much less valuable the one concession to democratic sentiment which the Bill contains.

The Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform recommended the assimilation of Parliamentary and local government franchise, so that everyone qualified by residence as a Parliamentary voter—and not only ratepayers—should also be qualified to vote at local elections. That recommendation is implemented in the Bill. The advantages of this extension of the local franchise are not in doubt and chief among them will be that among the new electors will be many of the younger generation who might have waited years before they acquired the right of a say in the affairs of their town or district. Now if ever is the chance to make a change which will infuse vastly more popular interest into local politics. The three-year system, by which one-third of the councillors on a local authority retire every year, cannot be said to have worked well, or to be justified by any administrative results of value. A series of elections none of which can be decisive bores the electorate and damps popular enthusiasm for constructive projects. That it does nothing to lessen the number of councillors with private axes to grind will be obvious to any elector who applies the test of *bona fides* to many of his representatives. If it be said that the power of dismissing the Council as a whole would dangerously destroy continuity of policy, surely the answer lies in the existence of a body of aldermen as well as of permanent officials.

But whether or not the three-year system is abolished entirely, the 1945 elections surely afford an opportunity for special treatment—with a view to allowing the electors—and

especially the younger ones who have served the country so splendidly in these years of stress—to pronounce judgment on those who have had a free hand with their affairs while they have been compulsorily disfranchised. Parliament must submit itself, in the person of every Member, to the verdict of the nation, and if the electors are to be the same there seems no reason why our local representatives should not be in the same boat. Further, many individual councils will be bound to submit plans for action in many spheres of reconstruction, and it is reasonable to require a general decision of the electorate upon their adequacy. Incidentally, is there any substantial reason why county, district, and parish council elections should be put off until the Spring of 1946?

DECEMBER MONODY

FOR D. M. L.

*N*OW to its goal, the ending of its course,
The sun draws near; laggard each darkling
morn

Unwilling rises, and with failing force
Creeps on its way to wintry Capricorn.
So do our hearts a Winter solstice keep,
So Grief treads underfoot the faded year,
And only down the avenue of sleep
Finds the warm voice which it is fain to hear.
Yet still the bombers swing along the sky,
The tractors throb across the Downs' brown quilt;
Man strives and toils, though love itself should die,
And all the beauty of the world be spilt.

And I, who saw to-day's sweet, golden light
Falling on twig and tree and mossy shed,
Have heard a cock thrush sing with all his might,
And by these things have been much comforted.

EILuned LEWIS.

No. I LONDON

APSLEY HOUSE, offered to the Nation by the Duke of Wellington, should be accepted with the gratitude befitting such generosity; for it contains the Great Duke's historic collection of pictures (some captured from Joseph Buonaparte at Vittoria and presented by the Spanish Government) his unique assemblage of Orders and insignia (of almost every country in the world), and the superb plate used for the Waterloo banquets. The house is, in fact, a Wellington museum, no less valuable to students of the arts than to those of the history of the Napoleonic period. Moreover, it has scarcely altered since the Great Duke's death, being still lit by gas and candles. This aspect of a mansion so large for individual occupation by modern standards may have been a consideration to the present Duke, who no doubt felt, on the other hand, that a possession of such historic and national importance should not be left unoccupied and unseen, still less dispersed and destroyed. In this case, its gift to the National Trust was impracticable, since a large endowment would have been required for maintenance. Consequently the State, in return for the immense capital value offered to it, is invited to bear the cost of upkeep: a most favourable arrangement for the public, which will no doubt be allowed regular access. The house, originally red brick, was built about 1775 by Lord Chancellor Bathurst when Lord Apsley Marquess Wellesley acquired it in 1808 and the leasehold was bought from him in 1820 with part of the £750,000 given to his brother by the nation after Waterloo; the Crown freehold was acquired in 1830 for £9,350. The fronts were recased in stone by Benjamin Wyatt and the west front, containing the Ball Room, added in 1828. The old address, No. 1, London, from the site at the old west entrance to London at Hyde Park Corner, is still sometimes used.

DESIGN FOR EXPORT

M. HARCOURT JOHNSTONE'S announcement that the first post-war British Industries Fair would not be long delayed after Germany is defeated and that he has already resuscitated the B.I.F. Advisory Committee, is welcome news. Mr. Johnstone said that he felt that the Fair should concentrate more on export than in the past, a remark which might thoughtlessly be taken as implying that in such matters as design we should be content to accept other people's standards and

to copy their ideas. On the contrary, there is no such intention. The Federation of British Industries not long ago submitted that it was of first importance, particularly in view of the necessity for the greatest possible increase of Britain's export trade, that British industries should lead the world in the quality of their design. Mr. Johnstone having now announced the constitution of the Overseas Trade Development Council, Mr. Dalton has made a similar announcement with regard to the Central Design Council the setting up of which Sir Thomas Barlow foreshadowed the other day. A scheme for a Design Council and for Design Centres in specific industries was drawn up by the F.B.I. who suggested that in future there should be a section of the British Industries Fair to represent the best of English design among the depressing welter of commercial lines. There is no lack of ability, but it needs some such influential body as the Council to stimulate interest in design, to encourage the employment of good designers and to co-ordinate the resources of artistic and technical training.

HOW TO PAY OUR WAYS

ASSUMING that motor traffic after the war resumes its 1938 intensity, it is certain that a vast scheme of new road construction will be imperative. Will the nation be able to afford it? Mr. J. F. Bramley in *Roads for Britain*, a digest of current road planning proposals issued by the Austin Motor Company, has compiled the following little sum which shows that, including the savings of time and life due to properly designed roads, the cost could be more than met over ten years from the taxes paid by pre-war motorists and the pre-war contributions of local rates, assuming the new cubic-capacity basis brings us in as much as the horse-power tax.

COSTS.

New motor ways (1,000 miles) at £70,000 per mile	£70,000,000
New London roads (200 miles) at £500,000 per mile	100,000,000
New urban roads (300 miles)	150,000,000
Improvements to existing roads	200,000,000
Normal road maintenance for 10 years	200,000,000
Loan and administration charges	150,000,000
Total	£870,000,000

CREDIT.

Revenue from motor and fuel taxation	£870,000,000
Rate Fund—ten years' yield	320,000,000
Saving from 50 per cent. reduction of traffic congestion	330,000,000
Saving from 20 per cent. reduction of road accidents—in claims and hospital costs	55,000,000
Total	£1,575,000,000

Even if double-track motor highways may, as has been stated, cost £100,000 per mile, that would add a mere £30,000,000 to the cost figure, and still leave an ample balance. But of course this arithmetic makes two assumptions: that the Road Fund is not systematically raided by Chancellors of the Exchequer; and that he leaves us enough to run a car.

A SHORTAGE OF CROWNS

WE all have our own superstitions but are often ignorant of other people's. So many of us may be surprised to learn of an alleged satisfaction at a Christmas shortage of five-shilling pieces on the ground that they are unlucky. The origin of this belief is probably the prosaic fact that they are bulky and inconvenient. It is on a par with the feeling against walking under a ladder, lest a pot of paint descend on the head, or against potting the white at billiards, because it leaves only the red ball to go on with. At this time of the year the prejudice against the crown piece will hardly be shared by the young. It made a very suitable Christmas tip, especially for uncles, who did not want to be bothered by shopping, and it would be a deplorable thing if an uncle were now to feel justified in coming down to the ridiculous amount of half a crown. The very size of a five-shilling piece had this advantage that the exiguous slit in the money-box would often not allow of its passage. There was therefore no nonsense about putting it away,

A

COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES . . .

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

THE question of how much the individual dog knows of the world in general, and his master in particular, is an interesting and often illuminating study. One thing which, I think, quite a number of intelligent dogs know is our calendar system so far as the week is concerned, which is proof that they can count up to seven; or conversely that they have the gift of drawing conclusions from scraps of evidence which a detective in fiction would not despise. I have encountered many proofs of this, for instance a retriever who never troubled on Sundays to go upstairs and discover what clothes Master was going to wear, as he knew there could be no possibility of shooting on the Sabbath, but on every other day of the week came in on kit inspection with the morning tea. Another case was that of a Cairn bitch, who was not particularly interested in human affairs and not very companionable, but who was a confirmed car addict. She knew that the car would be used early on Monday mornings to take a small girl to school, and every Monday without fail she was curled up in the most comfortable seat in the car before breakfast.

* * *

THIS interest in the kit worn when shooting is one which many sporting dogs show. I had at one time two not very intelligent spaniels who, despite their keenness, or possibly because of it, were not very good shooting dogs. When let out of their kennel in the early morning they rushed straight to my room, skidding across the hall on the carpets, and, if they found shooting boots and other details of this description in evidence, they would dash out again, proclaiming to the world that it was a fine hunting morn, and that they were going out after rabbits and things. On one or two occasions their delight was so unrestrained that they anticipated me, and precipitated affairs, by going off to the shoot and beginning the work an hour before I was ready to start; but over these regrettable incidents I prefer to draw a veil.

Then there was a man I knew, who had trained his spaniel to fetch his slippers for him when, after shooting, he removed his boots in the sitting-room in front of the fire—I may mention that he was a bachelor. As this was a success he tried, when dressing in the morning, to teach the same dog to fetch the boots or shoes he was going to wear during the day, but this was a failure. Regardless of the rest of the kit—morning coat and striped trousers for a wedding, light lounge suit for a garden party, or yachting attire for a day on the estuary—the footwear produced from the stand was invariably the pair of heavy nailed boots used for shooting. This in no way proved that the dog was lacking in intelligence, but rather that he thought his master was in preferring to waste his time on idiotic frivolities when he might be doing something really worth while.

* * *

VERY naturally I should like to claim some special signs of outstanding brain in my own dog, who, in my eyes, is very exceptional, and the best I can do is to state that he knows I am deaf. When he requires help with a rabbit in a bramble patch—and the average cunning old Scottie will never work this prickly growth if he can make some human slave do it—it has been noticed that he barks much louder to call me than he does with others. In the same way, if



J. Hardman

WINTRY SKY-LINE : TROUTBECK, NEAR WINDERMERE

he wishes to attract my attention, and notify me that the time for taking a dog for a walk is overdue, he does not utter those rumbling growls which are a sufficient reminder to ordinary people, but pokes me in the calf with his nose. A correspondent, who is a Scottie owner and also an Irishman, wrote me rather pathetically the other day: "Why do we put up with these bossing Scottish breeds?"

I might in connection with my deafness mention an Arab pony I owned, who was apparently more intelligent than the dog, for not only did he know I was hard of hearing but also that I heard better with the right ear than the left. When I was out riding with another person he insisted always on being on the left, and it seems almost a pity to spoil it by saying that he thought everyone who rode him suffered from the same disability.

* * *

YEARS ago in those primitive uncivilized days when the knife-board, and its attendant tin of brown powder, figured in every kitchen, and knife-polishing was one of the less desirable tasks which had to be carried out daily, there were three drawbacks to the system which had to be faced. One of these was that knives wore out, growing smaller with the passage of time, so that it became difficult in the evening of their years to distinguish between a Mark I meat knife and the Mark II cheese variety. Another was that, occasionally in England and more often in Ireland, the kitchen staff had forgotten to wipe off the brown powder from the blade, and a knife-powder colour scheme on a slice of bread-and-butter was suggestive of some impressionist artist trying his hand at an Autumn sunset. A third feature was that the knife was always so razor-sharp that it had to be handled with great care, and those people who gesticulate at table with cutlery in their right hands, were almost as dangerous as those others, who point loaded guns in gun rooms. As neither of these low types of humanity was ever invited to stay twice the risk from this cause seldom arose.

* * *

NOW all this is over, and, with stainless steel knives in general use throughout the land, the old-time knife-board is relegated to the brass warming-pan category, though it is doubtful if it will ever hang on a wall as an antique of delicate workmanship. The stainless steel knife is a wonderful invention as it is always spotlessly clean and brilliantly polished, and time does not alter its shape, nor excessive cleaning loosen its handle. It possesses every possible attribute except that it cannot be used

to cut anything more resistant than the crumb of an under-baked loaf.

* * *

WHEN the war is over, and scientists, chemists and skilled craftsmen are free to devote their time to peace-time production, it is to be hoped that someone will invent a stainless steel knife which will take something resembling an edge, as the fact that a knife is designed primarily to cut seems to have been entirely overlooked so far.

Among other wonderful inventions these same experts might give their minds to is an electric light bulb, with the wattage so marked on it that it can be read in an ordinary light by a person with ordinary eye-sight, and it is no longer necessary to wait for the sunniest day of the Summer with a magnifying glass in one's hand. Also a motor car, which has an easily-accessible radiator cap that can be turned without using considerable force with a spanner; and, to the same model, a cooling system designed from which the water can be let out on a frosty night without removing the two front wheels and half the framework.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT has reproved me for my recent savage attacks on the jay and magpie, and my regrets that shortage of ammunition prevents their destruction. Both birds, he says, are among the most beautiful and interesting of our indigenous varieties, and it would be a pity to exterminate them because of their habit of life which, he says, is shared by other and more esteemed varieties, such as the buzzard and hen-harrier. In defence I would say that I date back to the days when game preserving all over the country was organized on far more thorough lines than has been the case at any time since 1914, and when a large staff of keepers shot on sight anything which might possibly interfere with the game on an estate. At the same time almost every schoolboy was not only an ardent egg-collector but also a rarer of young birds, and both the jay and magpie were eagerly sought after for the latter purpose, as they were easy to feed, unwilling to die and made attractive and intelligent pets. Despite these enemies constantly at work against them both the jay and the magpie managed to exist very comfortably, and in such numbers that it was possible for the nature lover, in the course of a stroll through a wood, to see one or more jays, and sometimes so many magpies that he was uncertain if he was due for sorrow, joy, a wedding or twins. Therefore, I doubt if anything I may say will result in the extermination of either species.

HOW TO MAKE A DUCK-SHOOT

By J. WENTWORTH DAY

THE wholesale drainage of marshes, coastal and inland, has wiped out hundreds of breeding and feeding haunts of wildfowl. Every sensible man recognises the paramount necessity to grow food at all costs, and the fact that erstwhile drowned lands often make the best cornlands. But the wild-fowler and naturalist may be permitted their academic laments for vanished marshes and their gloomy forebodings of things to come. Where are the home-produced fowl of the future to be bred, and on what waters shall we be able to shoot and watch them?

Consider the vanished paradises. The Dee marshes in Cheshire have gone, they tell me, and now grow corn or will grow it. Most of the Isle of Axholme is redeemed from bog and slimy water. Hundreds of acres of Broadland have been drained. In Kent, about Appledore and Lympne, miles of broad and reedy fleets which intersected those green feeding marshes have been reduced to mere reedless canals. Mr. Hubert Finn-Kelsey tells me that where, on his marshes, he once shot over 140 fowl at one flight and could rely on at least a score to his own gun at dawn or dusk, he now sees barely a dozen.

In Cambridgeshire, the National Trust land in Adventurers' Fen, which was just beginning to be a real breeding-ground of duck and snipe, is now a flat, black, chequer-board of dykes and green crops. Mr. Alan Bloom has described its reclamation admirably in his new book *The Farm in the Fen* (Faber and Faber).

My own neighbouring part of Adventurers' Fen, with its enchanting Swan Mere, Bitterns Pulk, the Cottage Pool and Lapwing Hole—180 acres of water with as much bird-life and interest as any Norfolk Broad—is now growing 12 to 14 tons of potatoes to the acre. Gone are the bittern and the Montagu's harrier, the garganey and the black-throated grebe, all of which nested with us, and gone too are mallard and shoveler, pochard and dabchick, the grey herons in the shallows and the wigeon which came like bullets on the Winter gales. Dr. Ennion has described this fen in his book *Adventurers' Fen*.

What is to be done about it? Duck-shoots must be created, and to do that four things are necessary. First it should be remembered that ducks do not need a lot of water. Thousands of waterfowl will visit a pond of half an acre to three or four acres in a season—as witness the old decoy ponds—provided they are given:

Peace—from humans, foxes, dogs, cats, rats, stoats and weasels.

Food—natural and put-down.

Security—which means that you can shoot them going to and from the pool but not on it—and not too often.

Clean water. A foul, rank pond will not draw them. Hence keep sheep and cattle out. Their dung sours the water and their feet trample down the growing cover.

Now I will tell you what I have done. Not far from a recently drained marsh whose memory has still a "lead in" value to migratory ducks I have taken a 16-acre field. The bottom end is perpetually wet in Winter, soggy in Summer. It is two acres of potential marsh. Across the dyke is a dense thicket which gives cover and protection along one side. It is away from all footpaths, visited only once a day by the cowman.

It was easy to borrow a bulldozer returning from more important work, and, in a day or two, that two acres was scooped out to a depth of two or three feet. Some of the waste earth was piled up in two or three small islands and the rest distributed along the banks in long mounds on which bat-willow shoots have been planted. One deep hole has been left between the islands. The result is a little mere or large decoy pond. The bat-willows are all planted on

the south-west, west and north-west sides and the south-east, east and north-east sides have been left open. No peninsula of any sort is allowed to run out into this mere.

The reasons are that a uniform depth of two or three feet gives the ideal depth of water in which ducks like to feed, as they can reach most of the bottom by standing on their heads, and it is also the best depth at which to cut reeds when these begin to grow unduly. The one deep hole will hold a few fish and act as a reservoir in very dry Summers and the islands provide good nesting and sunning places, out of the reach of stoats, foxes, weasels and all but the most adventurous small boys. A peninsula would not.

Further, the willows are planted on the western sides because incoming duck at night will be forced to fly in at a more or less known level against the sunset glow, thus making shooting easier. The eastern sides are left open, as the dawn sky is usually lighter on the low horizon. Moreover, I have a theory that duck do not like a pond which is too closely enclosed by trees. They like to be able to see what is coming.

Finally, at the far, shallow end of the mere, I propose to plant two acres of buckwheat and mixed corn and beans which, when peace relaxes restrictions, will be left each year till it drops—a sure and deadly lure for duck and wild pheasants.

In a parish where no one rears or preserves pheasants it is a legitimate lure, but in a preserved district it would be dangerously near a poaching device to steal one's neighbour's birds. In addition, I shall rear, and pinion, half a dozen call ducks.

The cost of all this miniature lake engineering is no more than a few pounds; the reward, a regular supply of ducks and a gilt-edged little income from the bat-willows.

The essential provisos are, (a) do not shoot more than once a week and preferably even less often; (b) shoot flighting birds as far as possible away from the pond—i.e. intercept them on their comings and goings to the stubbles and elsewhere, and above all, never shoot them on the water. If you do, the idea of sanctuary, the paramount attraction, is destroyed and you may get no more duck that season. Duck warn each other, I am convinced; (c) keep the reeds and sedges cut back. Duck do not need a lot of reed cover. A fringe along the banks and a clump here and there are enough to provide nesting- and hiding-places. Once reeds get a firm hold on a pool they will spread out and it is as good as ruined. To kill them, cut the earliest shoots off below the water with a scythe as soon as they show. The frost will do the rest. Keep water-lilies also within bounds.

Canadian blanket weed, which nearly ruined Swan Mere for me, is also a deadly enemy of the duck-pond builder. It clogs the water and, so far as I can see, provides no useful foods. Haul it out with rakes the moment it shows.



STEADY AS A ROCK

Most other plants hide and hold innumerable slugs, beetles and tiny molluscs which are hors d'oeuvres, caviare and Camembert combined to the duck tribe.

Water-mint, arrow-heads, water-plantain, water-violet, marsh milk parsley, meadow rue, loosestrifes and the lovely marsh pea all add beauty to the water and its edges, and should be encouraged.

Vernon should be ruthlessly destroyed, but with discrimination. Foxes, rats and domestic cats are fatal. They will destroy the ducks' sense of security more than anything and should be shot, trapped and poisoned. No cat that starts poaching deserves mercy. It will kill more than it eats, and from wild duck to tame chickens is usually a foregone transition.

The carrion crow will do more damage than two foxes, for the simple reason that he will take a nestful of eggs as easily as he will kill a paddling of young. Magpies, jays and jackdaws should also be shot. As for the little owl, I would not tolerate him for a moment. I have watched far too many of them eating small birds—including young partridges—to be influenced by the statistics of stomach-contents produced by his defenders.

The barn-owl, on the other hand, does no harm whatever—much good indeed—and as for harriers, if and when they appear, I would sacrifice all the ducks on the pond for the sight of one. Actually, I never found that they influenced the duck one way or the other on Adventurers' Fen, although we had the Montagu's nesting and the hen-harrier as a regular Winter visitor.

Short-eared owls do immense good by destroying rats and voles, and, as for otters, I have never yet known one take a duck, although marsh keepers usually allege all sorts of infamy against them.

Not everyone, however, can borrow a bulldozer or find a two-acre slip of potential marsh. But there are plenty of old gravel pits, gault pits, swampy corners of meadows and junctions of dykes which can be improved, fe-

planted, deepened or widened. Plenty of running ditches and brooks are capable of being dammed.

Mr. Weston Eve, of D'Arcy Hall in Essex, told me recently that eight pairs of wild duck had bred on his moat last year, and that up to 400 duck visited his gravel pit each night. They shot 143 on it in the season. The moat is 75 yards from a road and borders the churchyard. The gravel pit is about half an acre and not more than 120 yards from the same road. The secret—peace in Spring and plenty of food in Autumn and Winter.

What sort of food? Corn is forbidden, but acorns, grass and weed seeds are not. Ducks like grass and weed seeds, which, moreover, float while corn sinks. Floating seeds drift into the reeds and edges all over the place and give the duck more time to find them, whereas sunken corn is soon gobbled up and gone. Shoot down the moorhens, which will eat it all. "Dross" corn and bean tailings, pea tailings, barley, maize, ripe acorns, and chat potatoes (the latter late in the season) are all excellent. If bar sweepings of all, or any of them, can be got bagged up and taken down to the marsh, get 'em.

At the time when the harvest is here a few shillings given to the foreman or the bailiff will work wonders. Mr. Hudson has short-sightedly cut down the number of chickens that a farm may carry, so it is not unlikely that a good deal of such refuse may be available. Children can be paid a few pennies a bag to collect acorns.

The popular idea that wild duck like rabbits' entrails is, in my experience, a fallacy. On 1,800 acres of one of the most famous coastal wild fowling estates in Britain, which I rent, 11,000 rabbits were killed in a season before the war and several of the 15 or 20 fleets on the marshes were baited with the "innards" of the

slain. Other fleets and the decoy pond were fed as usual with corn and grass seeds. For weeks after, the rabbits' entrails lay and rotted—untouched. Not a duck was shot over them. I have tried this method of feeding twice on two different marshes, and each time it failed.

This year, on those marshes, we have killed about a thousand rabbits, instead of the old average of 5,000 to 6,000, and 500 to 700 duck instead of the pre-war average of 1,000 to 2,000 duck. The reasons are (a) gassing and (b) shortage of water. A dozen or more fleets have grown up, or dried up, until only two big fleets, one of about 35 acres and the other of 25 acres, remain filled. The big fleets are too deep to dry, so, by careful and continuous feeding with grass and weed seeds, I hope to get a fair bag. In any case, every other marsh for 10 miles is dry. Over-zealous ditching has dried them so effectually that water has to be carted to marshes which were never dry before!

Sheep and cattle do not harm a duck marsh, but it is advisable to put a barbed-wire fence round any ponds or fleets and particularly round shooting hides, first because if sheep and cattle are likely to get bogged the shepherd or looker must visit the pond each day. That disturbs the ducks. Therefore wire the cattle off. Moreover in dry weather sheep get bogged because they venture too far out on the soft verges and floating "hovers." An average of five sheep a week have been lost lately on my marsh shoot.

Two other points about marsh keeping are worth bearing in mind. First, give your keeper a strong spud or ferreting spade to take on his rounds and instruct him to open up every ant-hill on the place as he goes. Most cattle marshes are covered with thousands of them. Open them up and the partridges will flock down to the marshes.

Secondly ask the farmer tenants *not* to destroy the teazles. Not only do their huge pale blue heads add a note of almost tropical beauty but, more important, the deep, cup-like junctions of the branches where they join the stalk each hold a thimbleful of dew or rain. Often in the early morning you will see partridges march up to these handy reservoirs, stretch out their necks and take a beakful. They are Nature's own drinking fountains.

Remember that if you take three of the first five eggs laid by a wild duck and put them under a hen the mother-duck will lay more. Do not touch the nest, however, and leave no human smell behind. This can then be repeated several times. My keeper, John Fell, who knows more about ducks than most other people—he once produced a bag of 1,637 wild duck to three guns in 10 mornings—says a wild duck will lay up to 60 eggs in this way. It is simply an adaptation of the Euston system.

Young ducks reared under a hen will drown if put on water as soon as hatched. This is because the hen has not the instinct, or the ability, of the mother duck to "waterproof" her youngsters, which the duck does by squeezing the oil out of her oil sacs with her bill and coating the feathers with it.

Finally, to keep foxes away from any nests, duck, pheasant or partridge, buy some small glass bottles, fill each with animal oil and hang them by the neck, uncorked, on a string from a bent or slanting stick, over the nest. No fox will rob that nest or kill the sitting bird. This method was discovered by the late Squire Thomas Kemble of Runwell Hall, Wickford, and Leggatts, Hertfordshire, one of the best fox-hunters and wild fowlers that ever cocked a leg over a horse or looked down a gun-barrel.



SWAN MERE, ADVENTURERS' FEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, BEFORE THE WAR
In those days it yielded a thousand wild fowl a year. Now it is drained and grows potatoes



COLLECTORS' QUESTIONS

(Left) AN UNKNOWN OFFICER

See Question: An Early American Portrait

(Right) A SITTER TO BE IDENTIFIED

See Question: A Portrait by Lawrence



AN EARLY AMERICAN PORTAIT

I enclose photograph of a painting 16 ins. by 20 ins. The medallion on white band is inscribed "Newark" round the oval top end. Can the painting be identified by the word Newark, also the painter and period? Is the uniform naval or military?—E. C. SECKER, Highfield Farm, Dereham, Norfolk.

The portrait, from the cut of the uniform and the dressing of the hair, must have been painted about 1795-1805. The uniform is unquestionably a military one, and is very similar to English volunteer uniforms of that period. There is however no record of an English Unit, regular or volunteer, with "Newark" on their belt plates, or connected with Newark-on-Trent. But there was one with its headquarters at Newark in New Jersey, U.S.A. If something were known of the history of the portrait, it might be possible to identify the sitter, on the assumption that his rank is a fairly high one.

We can make no suggestion at present as to the artist. There were a lot of third-rate portraitists wandering about the States at that time.

A VASE LINED WITH METAL

Could you kindly favour me with some information in regard to the enclosed pictures of a vase? It is lined metal which looks like tin. The outside is black painted on porcelain. The figures are varied in beautiful colours. The painted design round the base of the vase and on the lid is in pale blue and gold. It has three claw feet, handles and rims in patterned brass, and the lid is of brass with hole in middle.—E. E. MOORE (Mrs.), Dingle Dell, Mill Lane, Lapworth, near Birmingham, Warwickshire.

The photographs show a piece of Pontypool or Usk Japan ware. The test of genuineness is "ordeal by fire." Place a genuine piece in the heart of a blazing fire and it can be removed uninjured with a pair of tongs. We have seen this done with a candlestick. The original Pontypool factory closed in 1822. Usk continued until 1860. Feeble imitations were made at Wolverhampton and Bilston.

At first glance the specimen would appear to be from the Usk factory owned by Evan Jones. But assuming the figures (difficult to see in the photographs) to be in the Oriental, or the classic, manner, the vase would belong to Pontypool and date between 1780 and 1800. The famous Barker family of artists painted the original pictures and skilled copyists were employed by the dozen. Base and handle were of cast lead and gilt, terminals of brass, and bodies were made either

of pewter or of bath metal. The latter would be tinned inside.

A PORTRAIT BY LAWRENCE

I should be most grateful if you could identify the subject of this portrait by Sir T. Lawrence, of which I enclose a photograph.—MARCIA E. MAKINS, The Churn, Painswick, Gloucestershire.

The identity of this portrait has defeated the acknowledged authorities. Its date is approximately 1830-35. Perhaps some reader will be able to recognise the well-defined individuality of the sitter.

A CLOCK BY WILLIAM CRISP

I have recently purchased an old grandfather clock in oak by William Crisp of Wrentham. I should be most grateful for any information you can give me regarding its date, as the maker was not apparently sufficiently well known to appear in the smaller handbooks.—H. L. PATRICK, (Capt., R.A.M.C.), Larkhill, Salisbury Plain.

William Crisp of Wrentham was a clockmaker who worked during the last quarter of the eighteenth century. Without a photograph or sketch showing the design of the dial—is it painted or metal?—and the case, it is not possible to say whether the clock was made in 1775 or 1800.

STAFFORDSHIRE CUPS AND SAUCERS

I have a pair of cups and saucers which have a creamy white ground, with pagodas and Chinamen on them, and flowers in brick red, mauve, and apple green. The maker's mark is 444 in brick red. One friend told me they were ware, and not china, and another said they were

Spode. Will you please tell me if that is so? The friend who gave them to me bought them in a junk shop at Coverack in Cornwall.—WILLIAM ROSCOE, Birchamp, Coleford, Gloucestershire.

From the description it is likely that the cups and saucers were made in Staffordshire early in the nineteenth century. The mark 444 is almost certainly that of the pattern, and would give no clue to the maker without reference to the books of the firm that made the articles. While it does not seem likely they were made at the Spode factory (which did however produce earthenware as well as porcelain and china), certainty on this point could only be obtained either by finding a piece marked "Spode" bearing the same pattern-number, or possibly by application to Messrs. Copeland, Limited, Stoke-on-Trent, the successors of the Spode firm.

A TAPESTRY PICTURE

I should be very glad if you could tell me what the figure is supposed to represent which appears in a picture in a maple frame which has been in our family for years.

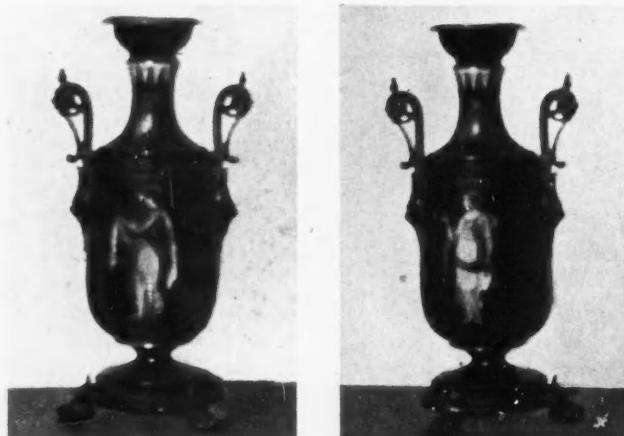
It is a tapestry picture and represents a female figure with a crimson and gold snood surmounted by a little crown, covering reddish gold hair. Round her neck she has a necklace and locket. Her frock is apparently of figured brown and gold velvet, with a yellow girdle, and long bishop sleeves of crimson. One hand is holding a white bird with brown wings which looks like a species of dove. She is leaning against the balustrade of a balcony, and each side of her are round pillars very high, with an arch between, covered with sprays of brown leaves, and on the other side of the balcony is something that looks like the sea.

I do hope I have described this clearly. If only I could get a film I would send you a photograph of the lady, but alas! I cannot.—MABEL E. PARKER, Highfield, Tadworth, Surrey.

If, as seems probable, the picture is contemporary with the frame, the description suggests a Byronic lady, possibly with Oriental affinities. Or it may quite possibly be a portrait. But it is impossible to be more definite from the description given.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S SEAL

A relative of mine has an interesting seal of which I enclose a plain sketch. The handle is of smooth wood, topped by a silver ball, which



AN USK OR PONTYPOOL JAPAN-WARE VASE. TWO SIDES

See Question: A Vase Lined with Metal

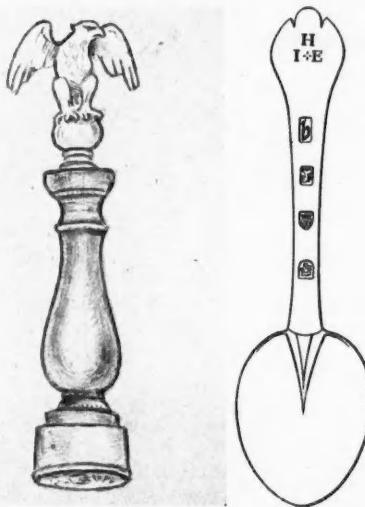
again is surmounted by a silver eagle of American type.

The seal itself is of silver and bears the arms of Washington (two bars and, in chief, three mullets) between the letters G and W which presumably stand for George Washington.

This seal has long been in the possession of the present owner's family and is believed to be a genuine armorial seal of the first President of the United States, but nothing of its origin or history is definitely known.

I should be greatly obliged if you or any of your readers could say whether any other seals of George Washington are in existence and, if so, whether they resemble the one above described.—HECTOR DUFF, 16, Lansdown Place East, Bath, Somerset.

This seal appears to be later than George Washington's time. An armorial seal of his is known. Neither a wax impression of Washington's authentic seal, presented to Slave Manor by the Hon. Horace Lee Washington, nor a seal of his at Mount Vernon bears the initials G. W. The absence of crest



(Left) A SEAL

with wood handle topped by a silver eagle and engraved with the arms of Washington between the letters G. W.

See Question on previous page: George Washington's Seal?

(Right) CHILD'S SPOON, PROBABLY BY LAWRENCE COLES, 1685-6. Length of original drawing, 7½ ins.

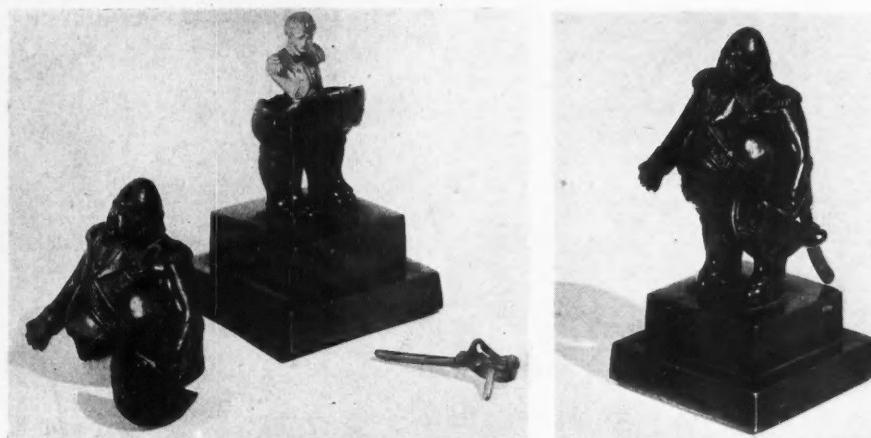
See Question: A Silver Spoon

and mantling, and the form of shield, in this seal suggest a 19th-century date.

ORIGINAL HANDLES FOR A PRESS-CUPBOARD

Dressers such as that shown in my drawing and common in Westmorland and Cumberland and the East-Riding of Yorkshire seem almost all to have lost their original handles. All in these parts are furnished with uncompromising turned knobs of Victorian date. I have not come across an example with the original handles, but have a remembrance of a drawing somewhere showing hanging handles in iron shaped like a magnet. The doors of these dressers were made to swing on pins, but these in most cases have given way, and have been replaced by heavy hinges cutting across the decoration in a very disfiguring way.

Are there any known examples of these dressers with the original handles and could one get a drawing of one with which to replace the knobs which have taken their place?—ROBT. SPENCE, Dungeon Ghyll Cottage, Great Langdale, Ambleside, Westmorland.



BRONZE STATUETTE OF LOUIS XVIII CONTAINING SILVER-GILT BUST OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

See Question: Two Statuettes in Bronze

The correct name for this piece of furniture is press-cupboard—not dresser. The photograph shows a detail of one which has its original iron loop handles intact. The handles are separate from the key escutcheons, which are also original. The loop is attached to a staple, the two ends of which go through the door and are driven into the wood at the back. We have seen numerous press-cupboards with their original turned knobs so not all had the metal handle. Mr. Spence writes that the doors were made to swing on pins, but many examples exist of which the lower doors have original hinges of other types—butterfly, H or S hinges. The hinges to the upper doors were often of the pin type, but not invariably so.

A SILVER SPOON

I enclose a drawing of an old silver spoon in my possession and should be most grateful for anything you could tell me about it. The drawing is a tiny fraction larger than the spoon itself. The rat's-tail is raised. The centre prong of the handle is bent up in the same direction as the bowl of the spoon. There are traces of earlier lettering under the ^H I... E, an A in dots merging with the I, and some other letter, now undecipherable, with the E.—B. H. FERRER DAVIS, Mercote, Jordans, Buckinghamshire.

The silver spoon shown in the drawing would appear to have been made for the use of a child, as it is rather smaller than the standard size. The marks seem to include the London date-letter for 1685-6 and the maker's mark crowned LC above a crescent, which Sir Charles Jackson ascribed to Lawrence Coles of the parish of St. John Zachary.

The inscription to this goldsmith should be regarded only as a guess of Jackson's.

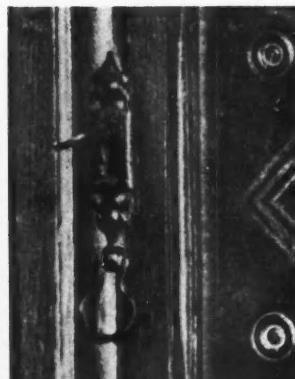
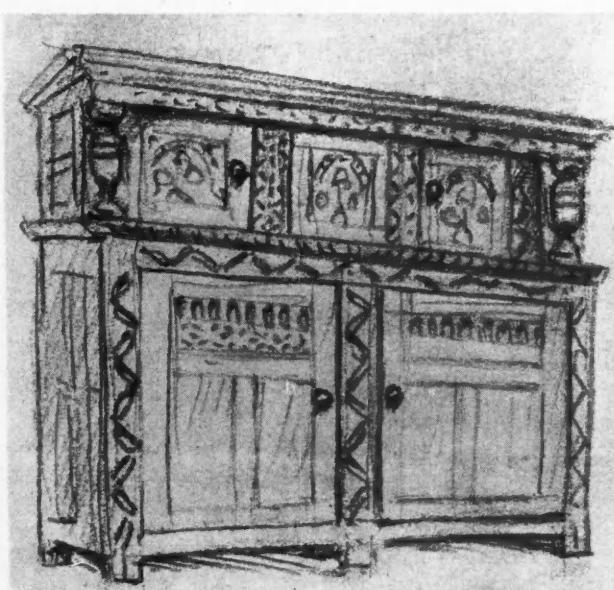
TWO STATUETTES IN BRONZE

Your readers might be interested in the enclosed photographs of a statuette, apparently of Louis XVIII. By twisting the King's arm, one is able to withdraw his sword and remove the upper part of the figure, as seen in the first photograph.

This bronze was among a small collection of Napoleonic relics which recently came into my possession. I believe that it was bought in Paris about forty years ago. The contrast between the unflattering likeness of the bronze and the fineness of the silver-gilt bust of the Emperor, seems a reflection of the political feelings of the time.—R. S. TIMEWELL (Capt.), 3, Moore Street, Cadogan Square, S.W.3.

We are afraid that we cannot throw light on the bronze of Louis XVIII, but shall be much interested in any comments our readers have to make on it. We have from time to time seen statuettes of the Daumier type of political caricature, but this one seems to be somewhat different, and the concealed bust of Napoleon is a very amusing piece of Bonapartism.

Questions intended for these pages should be forwarded to the Editor, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, W.C.2, and a stamped addressed envelope enclosed for reply. In no case should originals be sent; nor can any valuation be made.



(Left) A PRESS-CUPBOARD

(Above) DETAIL OF ORIGINAL IRON LOOP HANDLES

See Question: Original Handles for a Press-cupboard



A HOUSE SPIDER HOLDS A BLUEBOTTLE
IN AN INESCAPABLE GRIP

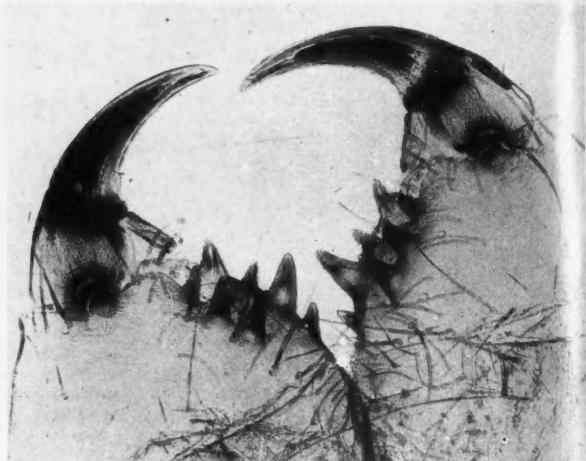


THE TERRIFYING EYES OF A GARDEN
SPIDER

THE WAY OF A SPIDER

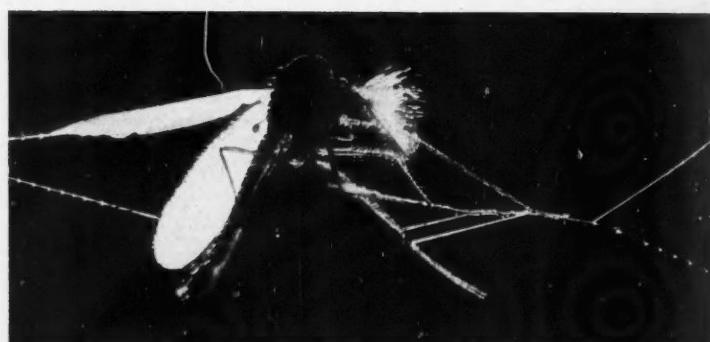
Some Remarkable Photomicrographs

By
ERNEST A. BOTTING



A SPIDER'S TERRIBLE MANDIBLES OR JAW
WEAPONS

The tube of each fang terminates in a poison gland,
so that poison can be forced into wounds made on
the spider's victims



THE HOPELESS ENTANGLEMENT OF A MOSQUITO IN THE
STICKY WEB

Thus the spider need make no further effort



SIMILARITY OF COLORATION BETWEEN A GRAB-
SPIDER AND THE FLOWER ON WHICH IT HUNTS



A WEB GLITTERS WITH MORNING DEW

(Right) A JUMPING SPIDER'S HEAD AS IT MUST APPEAR TO ITS PREY

(Below) THE ADHESIVE TRAP OF A WHEEL-SHAPED WEB

The spiral lines contain microscopic beads of viscid matter and the number on a large web is estimated at 120,000. The radial lines are free from these beads. Note the "soldered" joint

(Left) A HORDE OF BABY SPIDERS FREEING THEMSELVES FROM THE EGG COCOON. (Right) FEMALE SPIDER CARRYING AN EGG BAG WITH THE YOUNG HATCHING OUT. She will not set the bag down until the hatching is complete and will face death rather than abandon it

OLD TOWNS RE-VISITED—X

BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE—III

Wribbenhall quay and some Bewdley characters who traded there; with some reflections on the future of an almost perfect English town.

By CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

THILL Bewdley came into existence, first as the *beau lieu*, the pleasant scene from the manor house of the Mortimers, on Tickenhill, then as a Yorkist market town, and subsequently as the river port for the growing industries of the Midlands, its site was regarded as part of Wribbenhall, now its suburb on the left bank of the Severn. Before the Norman Conquest one Turstin, lord of Ribbesford, had given to the monks of Worcester *Wrubenthal*—the hall of a Dane named Wrybba who had pushed his longboat upstream from Bristol. The Mortimer barons of Wigmore and Cleobury, lords of the Welsh borderland and later Earls of March, leased the manor from the Prior from 1200 onwards, till it passed with all their vast possessions to Richard Duke of York, father of King Edward IV, early in the fifteenth century, and was made by the latter Royal Demesne. The setting up by the Tudors of the Council of the Marches to administer the border counties, with its headquarters at Ludlow and Tickenhill, brought further distinction to the growing town of Bewdley, and finally the parent-village was absorbed into it, for all practical purposes, when James I in 1606 reincorporated the borough of Bewdley. One of the reasons stated was the "frequent abode and residence there of our Council of the Marches of Wales." The borough's ruling body was to consist of a Bailiff and 12 Burgesses, and it was to return a single Member to Parliament. The fine old black and white Bailiff's House stands in Bewdley High Street (Fig. 8), built by Thomas Bowson in 1606,



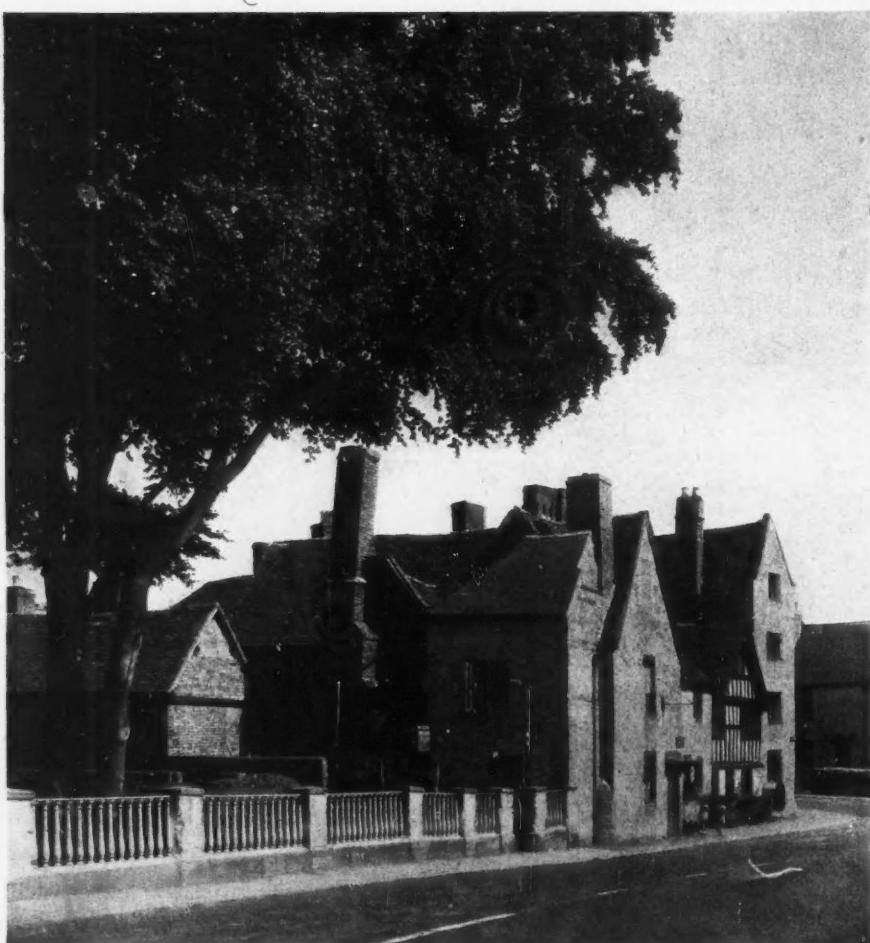
1.—WRIBBENHALL, LOOKING ACROSS FROM BEWDLEY

the first Bailiff under the new Charter. Opposite, and farther along the street, a Queen Anne brick house with a carved overhanging porch (Fig. 10) was the birthplace of Bewdley's most famous son, Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, for so many years Member for the Division, whose home at Astley is a few miles farther down the Severn.

Many of the charming brick fronts erected during Bewdley's 18th-century prosperity were applied to older timber houses. The George, from the bow windows of which there are agreeable views up and down Load Street, has a black and white timbered courtyard, and investigation down any of the alleys and courts off the main streets reveals similar traces of the "glittering" town of painted daub and oak that Leland saw.

But the richest group of Elizabethan and Jacobean buildings is in Wribbenhall, perhaps because its rival Bewdley then finally eclipsed it for residential purposes while Wribbenhall became rather the dock and warehouse area, so that few buildings of importance were subsequently erected across the bridge. Beale's Corner, named after a firm of 18th-century merchants, composes one of the most picturesque piles of traditional architecture to be found in England (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4), with its gables of black and white, and old red brick washed a golden brown, its mellow jumble of roofs and tall chimneys (Figs. 2 and 3). At this point the road from Kidderminster and the Midlands comes down to the old quay, giving the visitor his first glimpse of the Georgian water front of Bewdley across the river (Fig. 4). The mediæval bridge abutted just about where the disfiguringly tall telegraph pole now stands: that is almost in prolongation of the Kidderminster road. On the Bewdley side its abutment is occupied by the bandstand seen in Fig. 4—a delightfully incongruous feature mutely echoing the gaiety of Victorian regattas along the Georgian quay.

Thus the height of the long narrow house on the corner (Fig. 3) is accounted for by its having stood where the commerce of the port was most intense. Four hundred pack horses were



2.—HOUSES ON WRIBBENHALL QUAY, AS PICTURESQUE A GROUP AS ANY IN ENGLAND



3.—BEALE'S CORNER, WRIBBENHALL. TUDOR HOUSES OF THE RIVER PORT

sometimes congregated at Wribbenhall quay for transport of the cargoes of the Bristol trows inland and the export down river of the hardware and pottery of the Midlands. The Beales (two Benjamins have graves at Ribbesford dated 1745 and 1786) were evidently big general merchants, and their association with this corner, taken with the unusual proportions of the building may mean that it served as their business premises and other merchants' before them.

Other houses in Wribbenhall are, however, connected with individual merchant families. The handsome brick Queen Anne house on the right of Fig. 1, which stands over great caves in the red sandstone rock, was built by the Quaker Jacob Cotterell, son of Rowland Cotterell of Birmingham, skinner, or by the former's son Benjamin. Jacob moved here about 1670, setting up as a skinner, and Benjamin (1692-1778) founded a wharfinger business with a branch in Bristol, and a family that became one of the wealthiest in Bewdley. His sister married William Harwood of Wribbenhall, maltster and iron merchant, the latter business possibly inherited from his relative Thomas Milner. William Harwood lived at his place of business somewhere in Wribbenhall, but wishing to enjoy the air and view of the higher ground at the back, built the octagonal tower or Summer-house which is the nucleus of the house seen on the skyline in the middle of Fig. 1. The tower contains three rooms, that on the middle floor panelled and with six windows and a fireplace: evidently a glorified gazebo in which to spend hot Summer days. Later on it was added to considerably and is now one

of the pleasantest houses that overlook the town. Benjamin Cotterell II (1732-86) was noted for his powerful physique. It is related that he was sitting one evening in the Black Boy, having his glass, when a colour-sergeant came in and tendered him the King's shilling, which Cotterell gravely put in his pocket. When he rose to leave, the sergeant sought to bar his

way with his sword. Cotterell took hold of it, broke it in half, and passed out. Having accepted the shilling he was legally a soldier and had committed a breach of military discipline. But the sergeant, realising that he had enlisted the leading man of the town, apparently thought it less ridiculous to let the matter drop. Ben Cotterell is said to have been



4.—LOOKING ACROSS THE SEVERN TO BEWDLEY FROM THE APPROACH TO WRIBBENHALL QUAY



5.—A GEORGIAN TERRACE IN WRIBBENHALL

responsible for the ruin of Bewdley as a river port. When Brindley projected the Staffordshire-Worcestershire canal in 1765, it was first proposed to link it with the Severn at Wribbenhall, tunnelling under the ridge behind on which the railway station now stands. Cotterell, who doubted the possibility of a canal being carried over the light sandy soil of the heaths between Bewdley and Kidderminster, objected to the fee asked by the surveyor of this route and ended the matter by exclaiming: "Tell them to take their dirty ditch where they like."

So the canal, begun 1772, was taken along the obvious route for it, by the River Stour, and at its junction with the Severn the new town of Stourport rose in the closing decades of the eighteenth century. Its simple Georgian streets, derelict warehouses, and great dock basins where an amusement park has been formed, have a certain glamour, but are better there than at Bewdley.

In 1797 seventeen regular trows continued to ply between Bewdley and Bristol weekly, and Mr. Charles Sturge, whose notes, made between 1840-50, I

have been permitted to use for this article, said that there was then "still a good trade on the river. With a strong south wind blowing, flat-bottomed barges each carrying 60 tons might be seen going upstream with large white sails to aid the towing horses." But by then the larger houses in Bewdley were no longer occupied by people in active business. A few barges still plied 20 years ago till replaced by lorries.

The big man in Bewdley at the end of the eighteenth century was Samuel Skey. Born at Upton-on-Severn in 1726 he was apprenticed to a grocer named Church living in Load Street, and presently inherited £1,000 from a relative. With this he began selling log wood for dye and acquired a dry salting business which he developed into one of the earliest chemical works in England, specialising in sulphuric acid made from pyrites, which was increasingly in demand for industrial processes, including its derivative of chlorine for bleaching textiles. Skey's works, for which a good water supply was required, were in Bowles, the parish adjoining Bewdley to the north upstream, where he ran a canal

and tramway, but soon had to import Sicilian sulphur to supplement the local supply. The Bewdley Gas Works occupies the site of his factory.

Skey occupied a solid plain house in High Street, which contains a very handsome staircase and later housed the Bewdley Bank, which he founded. Meanwhile he had bought a large area of sandy common on the high ground between Wribbenhall and Kidderminster where eventually he built a stately Adam-style mansion called Spring Grove in a landscape setting of Scotch firs and with a picturesque view down towards Bewdley over a chain of pools formed by him. On this estate, among other things, he bred mules for farm and factory transport, his own carriage being always drawn by a team of white ones. He died in 1800.

The conservatism that had diverted the canal from Wribbenhall—and so saved Bewdley for later ages as an intact Georgian town—was repaid when the picturesque mediæval bridge finally collapsed in 1795 and the opportunity occurred for building the beautiful existing bridge in a setting unencumbered by wharves and locks. Thomas Telford, designer of the Holyhead Road and the Menai Suspension Bridge, who was its architect, was, like Rennie, one of the great 18th-century engineers who still employed architectural forms for their undertakings. Bewdley Bridge was completed in 1801 at the cost of £11,000, "as it by enchantment," Telford wrote to a friend, owing to a long drought in 1798. Whereas the old bridge had been aligned



7.—THE OLD GATEWAY TO ONE OF THE HOUSES IN FIG. 5



6.—TELFORD'S BRIDGE (1795-1801) CONNECTING WRIBBENHALL TO BEWDLEY

on the Kidderminster approach to Wribbenhall—since Bewdley had not taken definite shape by 1450—the new one was aligned as the entry to Load Street (Fig. 6), which was thus opened up and, from the crown of the bridge, lies broad and welcoming before the traveller, with the Georgian church tower at its end. The approaches to the bridge are fenced with cast-iron balusters—an early use of that material.

The building of the bridge benefited everybody except, perhaps, the residents in a charming terrace of 18th-century houses on the Wribbenhall side, the gardens of which may previously have sloped to the river bank (Fig. 5), but were now cut off from it by the bridge approach. However, a belt of beeches was planted as a screen, and these have now grown up, affording effective glimpses between their silver stems of the row—among the most finished Georgian houses in the town, one of which preserves its good wrought iron gate and masonry piers (Fig. 7). At about the same date one of the Cotterells built a town-house in Wribbenhall, seen on the right of Fig. 4. It has a handsome front (Fig. 8) of vermillion brick and ochre-washed stucco, with rich rain-water heads dated 1741 and initialled B. E. C. The photograph also introduces the question of new buildings in Bewdley, and the responsibility resting on those who, for profit or of necessity, make changes in this perfect gem of a town.



3.—THE BAILIFF'S HOUSE (1605),
HIGH STREET, BEWDLEY



9.—BOW WINDOW IN THE GEORGE,
LOAD STREET



10.—LORD BALDWIN'S BIRTH-
PLACE, HIGH STREET, BEWDLEY

I was sitting one day having lunch in the coffee-room bay-window of the George, when I heard a fellow-guest remark, in stentorian tones, "Ah don't think much of old buildings. They're all right in their place, but we've got to look ahead, that's what I say." Very true; yet looking ahead need nowhere involve new buildings looking ugly or mean, out of sympathy with and ignorant of their neighbours. And in a place such as Bewdley, to look ahead only, without looking to right and left, may produce such a discordant result as that shown in Fig. 12, a house built recently in High Street near the Bailiff's House, on the way up to the pretty old Unitarian Chapel which lies on the edge of Tickenhill Park but is now used as a builder's store. Compare this gash in the serene continuity of High Street with the Police Station adjoining the Cotterell house in Wribbenhall (Fig. 11). The latter is not perfect; more appropriate features than the pan-tiled roof and surprised windows might have been inspired by a walk around the town; but at least this new building acknowledges the character of Bewdley and has made a praiseworthy attempt to be agreeable.

It is satisfactory to know that Bewdley

Council is itself looking ahead and has invited Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis to prepare a Town Planning Report. It is generally agreed that Bewdley should not, at this late date, seek to become an industrial centre but rather conserve and accentuate the exquisite contrast to its industrial neighbours: to remain the "beautiful place" of its name, a centre for mental, physical, and visual recreation, where the treasures of architecture and scenery inherited from the past are carefully maintained, adapted where necessary to modern needs and sufficiently reconditioned. This policy will, it is hoped, be linked with a parallel scheme for the preservation of the glorious landscape up and down the river and including the parks of the historic mansions surrounding Bewdley—Tickenhill, Winterdyne, Ribbesford, and Spring Grove, with their estates—as a scenic domain or Regional Park. In this the mansions could serve a variety of social purposes: one, perhaps, a Summer school, another a country hotel for business visitors to the Birmingham region, Tickenhill as a Bewdley Folk Museum to which Mr. and Mrs. Parker have already converted it, as will be described in a subsequent article, and so on.

But the immediate necessity is, as Mr. Williams-Ellis emphasises, to prevent Wribbenhall and Load Street becoming a mere "traffic funnel," involving almost certainly the destruction of the heart of the town simply to speed traffic bound elsewhere. To this end, priority is proposed for a by-pass, affording motorists a general view of Bewdley from a riverside square and parking place at Wribbenhall, then carrying traffic along an embankment on the left bank to a crossing upstream to rejoin the Tenbury-Ludlow road clear of the town. By this means everybody minded to visit Bewdley would be enabled to do so under ideal conditions, enjoying the recreations of field and river and the pleasures of refreshment and shopping in a perfect town, undistracted by bonnet-to-bumper traffic. There is no doubt that, imaginatively but conservatively handled, and without being made self-conscious, Bewdley can become as quietly and deservedly famous as Rye or Burford or Farnham, and as cherished a resort in the Midlands as they in the South for the growing number of people who seek the friendly quiet and beauty so rapidly passing from England but so miraculously and precariously secreted in Bewdley and the parts adjacent.

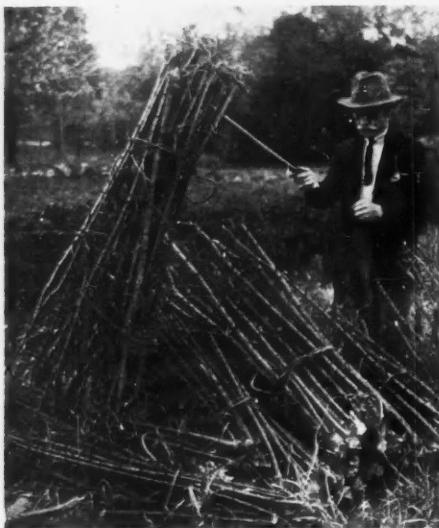


11, 12.—CONTRASTS IN MODERN BUILDINGS (Left) The new Police Station, Wribbenhall, harmonises with its Georgian neighbour, dated 1741 (Right) The latest arrival in High Street, with the Georgian Unitarian Chapel in the background



100 YEARS OF WALKING-STICKS

Written and Illustrated by C. F. F. SNOW



1.—BUNDLES OF BLACK-THORN WHICH WILL BE USED FOR MAKING STICKS



2.—THE FAMOUS DOWNLAND CROSS-HEAD GROUND ASH



3.—WOOD CHOSEN FOR MAKING HANDLES FOR UMBRELLAS

AHUNDRED years ago Leonard Lintott began to make walking-sticks of quality in a small workshop at Downland Farm, on the Surrey-Sussex border. To-day the flourishing firm which bears his name continues the work in a small factory where in peace-time between 30 and 40 men were employed.

The walking-sticks from this factory are famous in many countries, particularly those made of the specially grown Downland ground ash. Sticks are also made of hazel, chestnut, black-thorn and furze, and the range of sizes and types is a wide one.

Many of the sticks are grown in a pleasant little copse on the side of a hill. Here, as the wood is cleared by woodmen, nothing is wasted. The wood which is useless for walking-sticks is made into pea and bean sticks, brushwood faggots, hazel sticks for vent pegs or spiles, and pointed spars for house and rick thatching. All these are the by-products of the walking-stick industry.

—The natural crosshead ground ash, however, does not grow among other trees. It is as carefully grown as any garden plant (Fig. 2). First, the seeds or ash-keys, as they are so pleasantly called, are matured in a special way, which involves making a tiny clamp or pie.

When they are ripened they are planted in a nursery bed and left for a year. The tiny trees are then dug up and replanted in a prepared field. Part of the stem is laid along the ground and covered with earth. When the young plant has grown to walking-stick size, it is dug up, and the natural bend forms the handle of the stick. This is why the sticks are called natural crosshead ground ash.

Each young tree thus provides one walking-stick, but this one stick is good enough to justify all the time and trouble which goes into its production. A Downland ground ashstick has the reputation of being sound and reliable, and many overseas visitors who know nothing of Downland Farm ask for a Downland ash when they buy a stick.

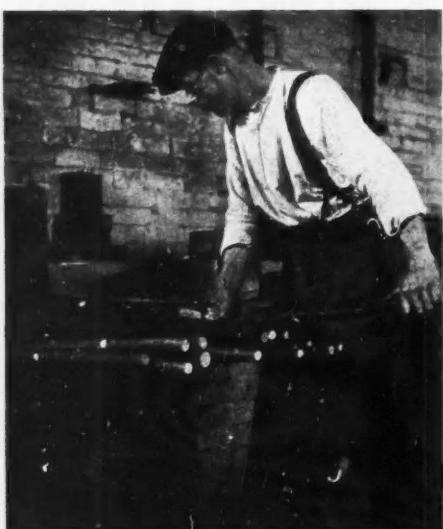
As befits such aristocrats among sticks, the young ash trees are grown amid the most pleasant surroundings in a field high and open to the sun, with rolling downs stretching away in the distance.

Ash sticks are not peeled, but many of the other sticks must be stripped of their bark before they can be made into walking-sticks. In order that the bark can be removed easily, they are boiled in big, oblong coppers. There are four of these coppers (and they are really made

of copper) in one of the sheds of the factory. Here the sticks are put into the water and boiled for any length of time from one to three hours, according to the state of the bark. When the sticks are freshly cut, one hour is long enough, but when they have been cut some time they need as much as three hours' boiling. The boiling sticks have a pleasant smell, vaguely reminiscent of blackberry and apple tart.

The sticks are taken from the coppers and peeled while still warm. The bark comes off quite easily, though the handling of the hot sticks requires a certain skill and dexterity. At the present time, women help with the bark stripping (Fig. 5), as, like many other factories, this one is short-handed because of the war. The bark stripings are burned under the coppers, which means a saving in fuel and also helps to keep the factory and its surroundings free from unsightly piles of waste.

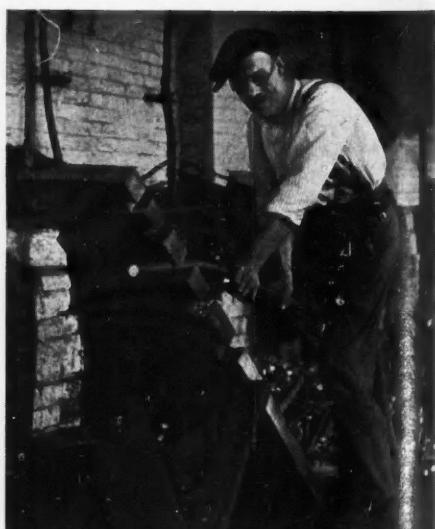
The next process in the making of a good stick is straightening. Few sticks grow absolutely straight, so they are heated in hot sand on a kind of large hot plate (Fig. 4). Then they are straightened on a large wooden board with spaces at the side through which the stick is passed (Fig. 6). This is a straightening "horse,"



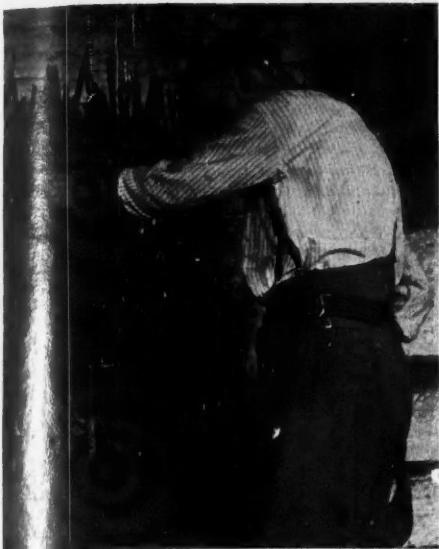
4.—THE STICKS ARE HEATED IN SAND SO THAT THEY CAN BE STRAIGHTENED EASILY



5.—AFTER THE STICKS HAVE BEEN BOILED IN A COPPER, WOMEN HELP WITH THE PEELING



6.—STRAIGHTENING STICKS ON THE "HORSE" AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN HEATED IN SAND



7.—TYING A HANDLE ROUND AN IRON RING

8.—(Left) THE HANDLES PLACED IN HOT SAND TO SET

9.—(Right) MR. J. LINTOTT IN THE STORE-HOUSE, WHERE THOUSANDS OF STICKS ARE KEPT



and comes from the same "stable" as other wood-workers' shaving horses, though most of the other wood-workers beset their steeds, while the stick straightener merely stands beside his.

Once the sticks are straightened, the bending of the handles is the next operation. The sticks are heated again in hot sand, and held in a vice while being bent into position. They are bent round an iron ring and tied (Fig. 7). Once in position they are left for some time to harden and set. When this is done the stick is ready for the finishing and the polishing which turns it into a first-class stick.

Some of the sticks are browned by means of a blow-lamp, others are grained, while all have the handle ends smoothed and polished. All that remains to be done is to cut the stick to the desired length and put the ferrule on.

In years gone by, umbrella handles and parasol handles were in great demand. The

parasol is almost a thing of the past, though umbrella handles are still wanted. Many of these are of the "stumpy" variety and short pieces of wood of unusual shape or colouring are put aside for the making of most attractive short umbrella handles (Fig. 3).

Long sticks with carved heads for use in Scotland, scout poles (for which the demand at present exceeds the supply), thumb sticks for hikers and ordinary walking-sticks by the thousand are produced at Downland Farm.

The black-thorn shillelagh, beloved by the Irish, is made here, too. These shillelaghs have proved very popular with men of the fighting forces, and many a shillelagh from this peaceful countryside will find itself in strange lands when the war is over.

The storeroom at the factory presents an amazing array of sticks of all shapes, colours and sizes, from the knotted and whorled sticks

of furze to the plain white painted sticks for the blind. At the present time there is a big demand for strong sticks for the use of the wounded soldiers, and many hundreds of these are ready for despatch; others are being made as quickly as possible.

This manufacture of walking-sticks in the quiet downland is essentially a rural industry. It is quite a family industry, too, for the first directors of the firm were the three sons of the founder, James, Frederick and William Lintott, and two of his sons-in-law. The grandsons of the founder, John and Victor Lintott, are also in the business.

These men cherish the business that has been soundly built on the foundation of a hundred years of honest and skilled work. Though some of them have many more than fifty years' service to their credit, time has dealt gently with them and they can still enjoy a full day at their work.

WINTER CORN ~ By W. S. MANSFIELD

IF there is any truth in the old saying "sow in slop—sure of a crop" then we may look forward to next year's harvest with complete confidence. For there can rarely have been a season when the land remained so consistently wet and sticky, and when Autumn sowing was slower or more laborious. The conditions, however, under which Autumn corn is sown are far less important than with Spring corn, and good crops frequently result from sowings made under the unhappiest of circumstances, particularly when the land has been highly farmed and is in good heart. The liberties that may be taken with such land are quite remarkable, and a crop sown under bad conditions, conditions which would inevitably lead either to a very poor crop or even to a complete failure if attempted on land in poor heart, may yield a full crop when carried out on well-farmed land in good heart.

* * *

Of course optimum conditions at the time of sowing Winter corn will always give the best results, though precisely what these optimum conditions are is not always recognised. It is certain that they are not the same as those which obtain for Spring sowing. To sow wheat in a fine, dry seedbed is undoubtedly a mistake, and, though there is a great temptation to sow under such conditions while the wheels of the drill go clean and the maximum acreage can be covered in a day, yet the results are usually disappointing. "Better to sow wheat in mortar than in dust" is the verdict of experience, though something between the two extremes is what most farmers would prefer.

It is, however, the effect of these adverse conditions upon the total area that it has been possible to sow, rather than on the success of what has been sown, that calls for most concern. For though the need for a large quantity of home-grown wheat may not be so acute as it

was, yet it is still pressing, and any greatly reduced quantity must at least have the unfortunate effect of postponing the time when the farmer will be allowed to retain for the use of his own stock a larger proportion of his home-grown grain. In some areas wheat is regularly sown up to the middle of December. But these late-sown crops need careful watching, since they are a prey to rooks and starlings, and the period during which they are susceptible to these attacks, owing to their slow rate of growth, is prolonged.

In spite of all the disadvantages attending the late sowing of Winter wheat, most farmers prefer it to the sowing of Spring varieties, notwithstanding that varieties of Spring wheat

are now available which are far superior to those of a few years ago. But all the Winter varieties are not equally suited for late sowing, and generally speaking it seems to be those varieties that are of outstanding merit for their stiff straw and high yielding qualities which seem to do least well when sown late, except of course on very rich land in high condition such as is found in the fens where wheat is usually sown six weeks or more later than in most other areas.

* * *

This is almost equivalent to saying that the older varieties are better able to tolerate bad conditions than the newer ones, and on the whole this would seem to be the general experience. When it is remembered that the energies of our plant breeders have for a good many years been directed mainly towards the production of varieties which would give heavy crops of great standing powers it is not surprising, for it means that they have been aiming at producing varieties which would give maximum returns under optimum conditions. It does not necessarily follow that the variety which will do this will also give the optimum return under adverse conditions. In fact the reverse appears to be the case, and the criticism most commonly heard of many of the newer varieties of wheat is that they are "tender," which presumably is only another way of saying that they will not stand up to unfavourable conditions, of which late sowing is certainly one. This seems to be a fair criticism and one which demands consideration, for the area of first-class wheat land is limited, and there must always be a large acreage of second- and third-class land upon which wheat must be grown. It is varieties which can be relied upon to give good yields under average conditions that most farmers require rather than those which will give abnormally high yields under perfect conditions.

OVER THE CLEAVE

*Over the Cleave their voices linger,
Young mothers calling,
Calling their children home when the sun
Earthwards is falling.
"Where are they now? Call! Have you seen
Gillian? . . . Jean? . . ."*

*On ribbons of air by the wind released,
Their voices high,
Children's voices, drift and recede,
Make no reply.
They are lost in the legends of secret play,
They are not here nor have ever been. . .
"Gillian! . . . Jean! . . ."*

*There is no bridge across the Cleave:
No late return
To the lighted land where they have been,
To the child in us that might have been. . .
"Gillian . . . Jean! . . ."*

BRENDA F. SKENE.

REPLANTING FELLED WOODLANDS

IT is obvious to landowners who take a proper interest in their estates that much replanting will be necessary sooner or later. There is, however, at the moment, a natural hesitation to plunge into a somewhat uncharted sea.

The main difficulty appears to be uncertainty engendered by the Forestry Commission's Report—*Post-War Forest Policy* (Stationery Office, 2s. net)—which is now before Parliament.

The Commission considers, rightly, that land really suitable for forestry purposes should not be used for any other purpose. It also considers, again rightly, that such land should be managed in such a way as to obtain the best sylvicultural result possible.

An owner who is prepared to "dedicate" the above class of woodlands to forestry, in perpetuity, will receive financial assistance and any necessary advice. He must work to a plan approved by the Forest Authority (apparently another name for the Commission), and if the Forest Authority does not approve of his methods it may take over the land and manage it itself. If the owner is not prepared to "dedicate," or to work on lines approved by the Forest Authority, the result is the same, since the State will take over the land, if it is considered suitable.

This all sounds very drastic, but may not be as bad as it seems. Continental landowners work under very much the same conditions, and provided they run their woods properly the hand of the State is very light indeed.

No one who knows anything of British forestry will argue that the whole of the suggested legislation is unnecessary. Waste, neglect and general mismanagement have been common on too many estates for far too many years. For such estates no legislation can be too harsh, if British forestry is to be brought on to a secure basis. On the other hand, there are many estates the woodlands of which have been carefully managed for generations, and whose out-turn of timber leaves nothing to be desired. The owner of such an estate may not see eye to eye with the Commission, and naturally will resent interference while knowing that he is getting the best out of his land. He is irresistibly reminded of the old saying that "Mother knows best," and is not consoled by the fact that he is considerably older, and possibly wiser than his self-appointed sylvicultural foster-mother.

Several points are bothering the landowner. In the case of a dispute where does he stand? It is presumed that the Forest Authority is

to be formed from the present Forestry Commission. This new body can order him to do this or that, and if he refuses it will have power to confiscate his land. It is responsible only to Parliament. To whom can the disgruntled landowner appeal? There is apparently no Cæsar.

Again, it is suggested that local control be in the hands of divisional officers, to be called Conservators, who will have separate staffs, one dealing with State woodland, the other dealing with "private" woodland. What the owner wants to know is, what is the "private" woodland referred to? Presumably the number of officers worthy of being referred to as a "Staff" cannot be required to deal with "dedicated" estates which look after themselves, since an inspector or two would do this. Presumably, then, the "private" woodland is that which has been taken over either voluntarily or by compulsion. In any case, why "private"? If taken over and managed by the State it is to all intent State forest.

The owner also realises that if this report becomes law in its entirety he will be in the hands of a committee, apparently appointed by the Forest Authority without reference to him, though he is definitely interested as the actual producer.

Last, but not least, the machinery for appointing the members of the Forest Authority itself is enveloped in a dense and apparently permanent smoke screen!

No owner of woodland should fail to study this report. He may not agree with all the proposals set forward for private woodland, but he cannot fail to learn a very great deal. As an effort to set British forestry on its legs again it is the most thought-provoking scheme that has so far been produced.

Turning, then, from the general to the particular, the owner's chief problem is undoubtedly finance. The returns from timber sales have not been as satisfactory as they were in the last war. Prices have not been so good, wages are very much higher, and general taxation has assumed astronomical dimensions. Nevertheless, planting costs should not worry the keen owner, provided that his credit is still good, and provided that State assistance, in the way of really substantial planting grants, becomes available. It is suggested, and hoped, that a flat-rate planting grant of not less than £7 10s. per acre will be made, plus a small annual maintenance grant for the first ten years. If this should prove to be the case the following figures, based on statements made some time

ago by Mr. Leslie Wood, F.S.I., should be of interest:—

Presuming that the new plantations are placed under Schedule D (and it would be a foolish owner who did not do so) all outgoings can be classed as "Losses," and set against taxation. If death duties must be paid, a further allowance may be set against taxation, to allow for replacement.

The actual cost of planting to the estate may, therefore, be as follows (it is presumed that planting grants will be exempt from income-tax):

Cost of planting (average based on actual figures)	£20 0 0
Less grant and maintenance, say	£9 0 0
Repayment of income-tax at 15s. on £11	8 5 0
Allowance for replacement death duties 25 per cent. on £11	2 15 0
		£20 0 0 £20 0 0

It will be seen from this that the State would have paid the whole amount. It is difficult, therefore, to deny its right to some say in the management of the crop.

One can go even further, and prove that, in the case of an owner unfortunate or fortunate enough to pay over 15s. in the £, the State would pay not only all the planting costs, but a small bonus as well!

It is admitted that anything can be proved on paper, but, even if results are not so pleasant as those given above, it is obvious that the cost of planting to the owner can be cut to a very low figure, which could be met by a small fraction of the money obtained by war fellings in very ordinary woodland.

When the owner has got over his fear of the future and of finance, points which arise are when to plant, and how to plant. The question of what to plant is here deliberately omitted, as it depends entirely on local circumstances.

The question of when to plant is not quite as easy to solve as it seems. The obvious thing to do is to get the trees in on felled areas while the land is clean.

There are, however, a number of points which must be considered before such action is taken. First, the supply of plants. At the present time this is very restricted, both in number and species, and some species cannot be obtained at all. Quantity being restricted, quality is not likely to be even. Prices are naturally very high. Where estates have managed to raise their own plants this does not matter, but there are few outside the Forestry Commission that will be able to stock extensive felled areas from their own nurseries.

On the other hand, if the areas are allowed to lie for two or three years longer, the cost of cleaning may be very heavy. This does not apply so much to pine soils, on which a lag between felling and planting is advantageous as allowing pine weevil to die out. Also, on such soils ground vegetation is usually of a lighter type than on the heavier soils.

Converted coppice areas are also a fairly reasonable proposition, since they are not so weedy as open ground, the coppice having kept the area clean. Small coppice shoots will not affect transplants very much, and these shoots can, in most cases, be cut away several years after growth has started, without much trouble. Thick cut-over chestnut would be a difficult problem, since the shoots grow extremely fast, but few people in their senses would attempt to convert thick chestnut coppice to high wood, this being one of the few types of coppice which is really profitable.

Apart from the sylvicultural problem the question of planting grants is very important. At present the Government planting grant for conifer is only 40s. per acre, and with the high cost of planting such a sum is too insignificant to induce the average private owner to plant. If the amount were increased to, say, treble the pre-war rate, the situation would be very different. Nothing is definitely settled at the moment, and nothing has been said regarding any retrospective grants. The owner, therefore,



FORESTRY THAT PAYS. A plantation of 50-year-old Douglas fir in Sussex. The area shown covers about 2 acres on which some 10,000 cu. ft. of felled timber is lying

has to make up his mind whether to plant on the £2 grant, or wait a little longer to see whether he will get a higher grant. One cannot believe that the grant will remain at £2 only.

The next question is that of management. If the estate is to avoid the grasp of the Forestry Authority it must employ "skilled supervision." Who exactly is to state whether the supervision is "skilled" is not mentioned in the Report, but presumably the Forest Authority will have the final say. Estates with competent foresters and agents with a knowledge of forestry will presumably be placed in the desired category, but others, where forestry has been neglected and the woods have been run by the keeper under the control of a solicitor, for example, will have to change their methods—or lose their wood. In such cases the use of estate labour may be decided on, and a woodland staff established depending in size on what has to be done and the rate of replanting.

To rush into replanting with the idea of getting the woodland planted up is a mistake. It should be done gradually, so that there is some difference in age classes, if only of a few years, to take advantage of experience gained in early period.

For example, a planting programme of 100 acres could be split to 10 acres a year, planting being first done on those areas most liable to become weedy and overgrown. Two men could carry out this plan, and still have time to deal with felled areas, broken fences, damaged roads and the estate nursery. Policy can be decided by an agent with an accepted knowledge of forestry, or by a consultant forester visiting the estate at regular intervals. If possible planting should always be done by the estate staff. Men always take more interest in, and care of, trees they have planted themselves.

On estates where a proper staff is not available planting by contract is recommended, as, if the firm employed is a reputable one, it is



A BLOCK OF 55-YEAR-OLD DOUGLAS FIR INSUFFICIENTLY THINNED AND BEGINNING TO BLOW DOWN. Note the persistence of side branches

usually quite satisfactory. Such operations require watching, as the contractor is largely in the hands of his foreman, and occasionally curious things happen. In one case the contractor called for Scotch pine 8/12 in. By some error trees of 12/16 in. were sent. The foreman

anxious to get his job over, planted these four inches deeper than he should have done. It was not until the following season, when 90 per cent. of the crop was dead, that the trick was discovered.

Contract planting is, however, very often highly satisfactory, but to make assurance doubly sure it is as well to arrange to take over the planted crop in the third year after planting. The extra expense is well worth while, if the estate does not possess anyone capable of looking after the crop during that very vital period.

The Forest Authority proposes to set up an advisory service, but it will be a considerable time before men possessing the requisite practical knowledge are available in any quantity.

In this connection, there seems little doubt that a post-war boom will hatch out a number of self-dubbed "foresters" anxious to advise. Anyone can call himself a consultant forester. Such people must make themselves known, since they are unknown, and it is to be feared that there may be an increase of "high pressure salesmanship," as it is called in the U.S.A., or what in England is somewhat less elegantly known as "touting." This country possesses a small band of widely known and highly qualified professional forestry consultants, and a number of chartered land-agents and surveyors with an extensive knowledge of forestry practice. If the enquiring owner deals with these men he cannot go far wrong, and if he is in doubt reliable information can always be obtained about them, by applying to the Royal English, or the Royal Scottish, Forestry Society.

S. S.

There are many men and women in the Services who would welcome a chance of reading "Country Life." If you will hand it in, unwrapped, unstamped and unaddressed at any Post Office, it will go to them.

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

A Golf Commentary by BERNARD DARWIN

THE other day I was present at the introduction of two young gentlemen to one another. They were very young indeed, being aged respectively thirteen and fifteen months. First they sat on the ground solemnly staring at one another and reminded me of a picture, in my old and beloved copy of *Treasure Island*, of Captain Smollett and John Silver. Then a common toy was provided in the shape of something like a dulcimer together with two drumsticks. One baby, the younger of the two, held his stick at the extreme end of the shaft. He delivered a number of very erratic hits, but now and again he may be said to have struck the ball bang in the middle of the club and produced a fine, sonorous note. His senior had meanwhile been trying several different grips, none of them very successful, but now spurred on by envy and clearly resolved to leave nothing to chance, he seized his stick as near the head as possible. His strokes were rapid and accurate but the result was poor. The note produced was not comparable with that of the baby who took the long handle, being in fact not much more than a muffled thud.

* * *

These things are in the nature of a golfing parable. Short clubs offer a great temptation. They seem to make accuracy of striking so much more easily attainable and at first at any rate they may do so. The player feels so much more in control of his instrument than when he is standing afar off from his ball. He lashes at that ball with a new confidence. Nevertheless a general rule these short shafts turn out a bore; the fact that they apparently make it so much easier to hit hard induces the player to hit too hard and too fast. In the end, as likely as not, he will find that all rhythm has gone out of his swing, so that he returns in a penitent frame of mind to clubs of the orthodox length, such as the club-makers normally provide and which the general experience of golfers has proved to be the best.

I can write feelingly on this subject since during most of my golfing life I was seduced from the paths of virtue by wooden clubs not greatly but still perceptibly shorter than the average, and if I had to begin over again I would sternly resist. I ought to have known better because I can still remember the sensation, I suppose at the age of sixteen or seventeen, of changing from a driver of boyish length to an orthodox full-grown one. Almost the first shot I hit with it in a field sent the ball crashing into the branches of a big wych elm, only the foot of which I had previously been able to reach. That was a lesson which ought to have endured and yet, as I say, I allowed myself to relapse, to be led away by what Mr. Pecksniff would have called "the siren-like delusions" of shorter clubs. It was only when steel shafts appeared that I returned, of course far too late, to clubs of normal length.

* * *

I hope this egotism may be forgiven as I am trying altruistically to utter a warning. I will say no more of myself, if I can help it, and will try to enumerate some others who have played successfully or unsuccessfully with short clubs. I remember that for a little while, I think in the year 1898, the great J. H. Taylor himself played with really very short wooden clubs. Of course he played well with them, as he could not help doing, and so flattered the clubs. Other people took to them, I among the number, and they were the most engaging little toys with the prettiest little heads; but I don't think J. H. stuck to them for very long and the fashion proved a brief one. Most people went back to normal or, as I did, had their clubs only an inch or so shorter than orthodoxy prescribed.

There were, however, one or two permanent exceptions and the most notable was Mr. E. H. Buckland, always to be affectionately remembered as "Teddy" Buckland, the cricketer and Winchester master. He was an uncommonly

good player, particularly at Westward Ho! and he was permanently faithful to tiny, toy-like clubs. Moreover, though not to all appearances a particularly strong man, he could hit the ball a long way with them and that with no perceptible effort. The secret of his ability—a very dangerous secret for anyone else—lay in a little lurch forward of his body in the downward swing. "Lurch" is not really the right word; he seemed rather to tip his body gently forward and, as he had a genius for timing that perilous movement, the ball flew away sweetly and easily, but I am not aware that he had any successful imitators. Mr. de Montmorency was one of these little clubs of Mr. Buckland's, which he used to call his "Dumpty" and very good he was with it; but after a little while it became only a cherished museum piece and he played with clubs of ordinary length. I recall too that Sir David Kinloch, who died the other day, had a sort of Indian Summer of golf when he took to shorter clubs and won various medals on the East Lothian courses. That very great golfer of the Lothians, Mr. Laidlay, may be said in effect to have used short wooden clubs because he held normal clubs at the very bottom of the leather; but that is not quite the same thing.

* * *

Generally speaking experience shows that orthodoxy pays best and it is worth while remarking that professionals, who have to drive for a living, are as a body extremely orthodox. No doubt they have tried experiments, and such a restless and fertile genius as that of Henry Cotton for example would not be satisfied without doing so; but in the end, and as a class, they are wonderfully normal in respect of their clubs. I cannot off-hand think of any professional who uses clubs that are either very short or very long or very springy. The "limber" shafts which were so popular before the war did not appeal to their sound common sense as regards their own use though they were naturally and properly ready to sell them to their

customers. They have wisely left extremes of all kinds to the amateur who can afford all the exciting fun and all the disappointed hopes of trying them.

Just as there have been temporary fashions in very short drivers so there have been in very long ones. One in particular set in about 1903 when everybody or nearly everybody was experimenting with the "Dreadnought," a club with a particularly long shaft and a particularly big head. It came originally, I think, from the shop of that admirable club-maker Charles Gibson of Westward Ho! Mr. Herbert Fowler, who was a very big tall man, had a mightily impressive sweep with one of them and so had Mr. Osmund Scott, who was not big at all but had a swing so good that he could probably have swung well with anything. I cannot remember exactly how long the fancy for "Dreadnoughts" endured but gradually orthodoxy once more resumed its sway.

The most interesting experiment in the way of long clubs was, I think, one which I must have mentioned before, that of Mr. Horace Hutchinson about the year 1903. In the Spring of that year he rather unexpectedly—for he

had had little practice—reached once more the final of the Amateur Championship at Muirfield, but found himself considerably out-driven by Mr. Maxwell when he got there. So he went home to Ashdown Forest and got Jack Rowe to fashion him a club with a normal head but a monstrously long shaft. I have not hitherto specified exact lengths, but I do know the length of that club, because it is now one of my most dearly prized possessions. It is 46 inches long. With it Mr. Hutchinson renewed his youth in the matter of driving in a remarkable manner. In the championship at Sandwich in 1904 he was driving a long way and looked like winning till he met Mr. Travis in the semi-final when he was too palpably tired out after beating Mr. Maxwell at the 19th in the morning round. He would, I am sure, have continued to be very good with it had not his health had yet another setback not long afterwards, so that he was never again quite the same player from sheer lack of physical strength.

I have by the way forgotten one eminent golfer who always, I imagine, used clubs longer than the average, namely Ben Sayers. He was himself so very small that he had to do some-

thing to make up for his lack of inches. There was about his golf a certain appearance as of the tail wagging the dog, but it needs no saying that he was an accurate driver and could keep going in point of length in the best company of his day.

And so I come back to where I started, with the firm conviction that for nearly everybody the normal is best. Clubs very heavy or very light are to be looked on with the same suspicion as the very long or the very short. If I am particularly urgent in the matter of the very short it is because I have always found them so fascinating and am now convinced of the meretricious nature of that fascination. Even to-day, when my back is too stiff to enable me to get down to it, to pick up a child's club is to feel an instant temptation to go out and play with it. It is a temptation direct from the devil, the more alluring because the immediate result is likely to be successful; and if I wanted any further evidence I got it from watching that young gentleman playing on the dulcimer. If he ever becomes a golfer, as I hope he may, I shall see to it that his clubs are not too short for him.

CORRESPONDENCE

PIGEON-SHOOTING SUGGESTIONS

SIR.—Many of my friends consider that I am slightly deficient mentally, because I prefer shooting at pigeons, to shooting partridges or pheasants. But the fact remains that to find pigeons, and then to shoot them, is the shooting I like best, and I fancy that it is a type of shooting which will be easier to come by, after the war, than some of the more normal sorts of the past.

The trouble seems to me to be that apart from the usual organised pigeon shoots, the ordinary farmer is too busy to do anything about pigeons, except complain what a nuisance they are and how much damage they do.

I send the following suggestion, in case it is of interest and has not been put forward before.

All members of the N.F.U. should be encouraged to inform their local secretary—

- (1) If any of their fields are being damaged.
- (2) If pigeons are roosting in any of their trees or woods, or in any woods in sight of their farm.

The only trouble that need be taken is to send a postcard or a 'phone message to their local secretary.

The secretary on his side should make it his business to know of any reputable sportsmen who are keen on pigeon-shooting, and who can be relied upon to confine their attention to pigeons, unless given permission to shoot rabbits, etc., as well.

The local secretary should then, at the expense and trouble of another postcard, pass on the information from the farmer to the local and reliable sportsmen.

In addition, anyone who is keen on the sport would know that, if he is in a strange district, with time to spare, he has only to go to the local N.F.U. secretary to find out where he can go to get some sport, and at the same time assist agriculture.

I expect this idea is full of snags, and open to abuses, but I feel it is perhaps worth consideration.

I have found that most farmers don't bother to notice where pigeons roost, and in my own case I have cycled miles, with binoculars, and have had to find out for myself.—R. N., Brooks's, St. James's Street, S.W.1.

A PLUCKY SHEEP

SIR.—I was walking along the towing path of the Grand Junction Canal here recently, when I came upon a flock of sheep. On the opposite side

of the canal was a single sheep somewhat removed from others in the field, bleating and obviously desiring to cross the canal and join those before me on the towing path, which it proceeded to do, plunging into the canal and swimming across. Surely this is most unusual for a sheep.—BRYAN W. BODINGTON, Holly Bank, Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

A JOHN PEEL RELIC AT GREEN RIGG FARM

SIR.—You may like to publish the enclosed photograph of Green Rigg Farm, Caldbeck, the Cumberland home of John Peel. The house is a small one with architecture typical of the Cumbrian and Westmorland countryside.

This interior view is of a chimney corner in the old house, where, according to tradition, John Peel used to sit

after the day's hunting, and where it is possible Graves received the inspiration, when exchanging sporting reminiscences with his friend, to write his immortal song.—ALFRED VOWLES, Minehead, Somerset.

[Incidentally it is an excellent instance of a 19th-century cottage hearth with its customary furniture.—ED.]

THE CATS' MENU

SIR.—Mr. George Girling in his letter to COUNTRY LIFE says that his cat dislikes bread and will not even eat bread and milk. I have three cats all under three years, therefore accustomed to war and no delicacies, but they all love dry bread with crust, broken up roughly, and look on toast crusts as something to be eagerly sought, especially if still warm. Their one large meal consists of bread

crumbs mixed with very finely chopped fish, or scraps of sausage, or meat and bacon rinds which have been fried crisp.

Bread and milk they will never touch and I was told by a cat-lover that they like dry food and drink served at the same time. On this diet I have never had the slightest trouble with them. In very cold weather, I give as a great treat a teaspoonful of Benger's food made with water.—MARJORIE TATHAM, The Cottage, East End, near Lymington, Hampshire.

DISAPPEARING BUTTERFLIES

SIR.—During the last half-century there has been a remarkable dearth of certain migratory butterflies from some unaccountable cause. I allude to those which migrate to this country from both the warmer Continental coasts and the Scandinavian districts. First I will refer to the scarcity of such species which arrived from the opposite coast of France, where the changed conditions may have taken place which have caused the localities to be unsuitable to the productiveness of the species. There are three kinds in particular. These are the outstanding migrants, viz., the Bath White (*Pontia daplidice*), the Queen of Spain Fritillary (*Argynnis lathonia*), and the Camberwell Beauty (*Nymphalis antiopa*).

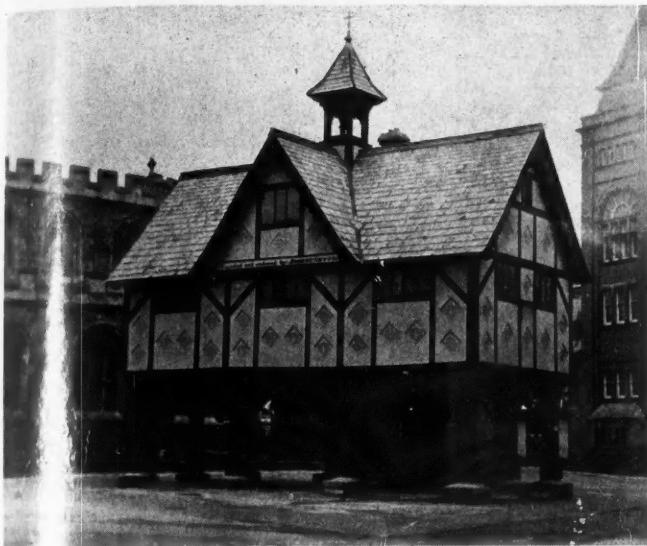
The year 1872 was noted for the great invasion of migratory insects recorded in various places in the British Isles, especially the south-eastern counties. This rare butterfly *daplidice*, first recorded as British over two centuries ago, is still a common species abroad, is always looked upon as a rare migrant to Britain and is now very scarce. Occasionally it occurs in May or June and may produce a brood from July to September. The progeny of these will succumb in late Autumn being unable to resist the cold damp, and the species becomes exterminated in this country until the arrival of fresh immigrants from the Continent. Previous to this century a few specimens were recorded from the eastern counties, but by far the greater number were seen and captured in 1872, when as many as twenty were taken in Kent, but a great decrease in their numbers has occurred, and since the early '90s hardly any have been noted.

The same remarks apply to the equally rare *lathonia*, which occurred in many districts in the south-eastern counties, especially in Kent, where no fewer than fifty were taken in 1882. In 1880 eighteen were noted, in 1882 twenty-five, in 1883 eleven; in 1884 only three were recorded, while during



JOHN PEEL'S FIRESIDE

See letter: A John Peel Relic at Green Rigg Farm



MARKET HARBOROUGH'S ANCIENT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

See letter: An Ancient School

the past 50 years only fourteen were seen. The great scarcity since 1900 may chiefly be due to the changed conditions of the French coastal localities.

Regarding the scarcity of the Camberwell Beauty it is unaccountable. Since 1880 it has seldom been met with. 1872 was called the "Antipode year" from the abundance

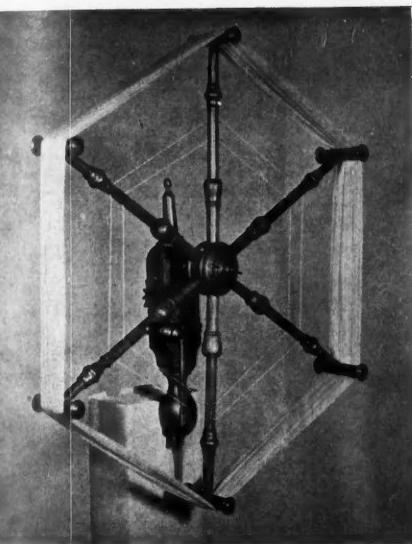
derived, is a beautifully made wool-winder designed for domestic use. It is 22 inches in diameter, constructed of mahogany, and arranged for attachment to the edge of a table. It is stamped with the maker's initials, L. M., and ALLOA, the town in Clackmannan where it was made some 160 years ago.

This appliance for winding woolen yarn into hanks of measured length is similar in principle to Sir Richard Arkwright's original wrap reel. The origin of this particular type of domestic wool-winder or wrap reel is probably the Galashiels and Hawick districts. The reduction gear winds on 200 yards for a single revolution of the check wheel. A pin protruding from the side of this wheel coming into contact with a fixed metal arm registers the end of each revolution. One arm of the reel is hinged to permit easy removal of the reeled yarn.

This beautiful little instrument is recorded as having belonged to Helen, daughter and coheiress of James Buchanan of Drumpellier, and Margaret his wife eldest daughter of the Hon. John Hamilton, second son of the 6th Earl of Haddington. Helen married in 1785 Sir George Home,

Vice-Admiral of the Blue, 7th Baronet, of Blackadder; and it was given by their grandson, Sir George Home-Speirs, to his daughter Anna Beatrice, who married Colonel A. H. Middleton of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

It was eventually acquired for Sulgrave Manor, where it is shown for comparison with the more primitive implements used for a similar purpose by the Washingtons during the period of their residence there from between three to four hundred years ago.—H. CLIFFORD SMITH, Highclere, near Newbury, Berkshire.



A WOOL-WINDER OR WRAP REEL MADE AT ALLOA ABOUT 1780

See letter: A Wool-winder

of these handsome butterflies occurring throughout Britain from Kent to the Moray Firth. It is surprising that this species has become so scarce in this country, as it remains the same as regards its distribution abroad from where its migratory flights take place, and its powerful flight across the North Sea, about 300 miles, could easily be accomplished from Norway in a few hours. Therefore we are at a loss to account for its non-appearance during a period of more than half a century.—F. W. FROHAWK, Sutton, Surrey.

A WOOL-WINDER

SIR.—In her interesting article, *The Old Craft of Tweed-Making*, in COUNTRY LIFE recently, Mrs. A. Grey Gordon describes the processes of preparing wool for weaving by carding, spinning, winding and dyeing.

Among the collection of objects shown at Sulgrave Manor to illustrate sheep farming, wool working and the wool trade, from which the fortunes of the Washingtons were originally

the nest was empty, so we were only just in time.

The parent birds used the hole at the top (or bottom) as their entrance, and the babies had plenty of space inside to try their wings before following the parents out of the hole.—HELEN STEWART, Dungoyne, Warren Drive, Kingswood, Surrey.

AN ANCIENT SCHOOL

SIR.—One of the most interesting buildings in the Leicestershire town of Market Harborough is the ancient grammar school which stands in the centre of the town.

It was founded in 1613 by Robert Smyth, a Harborough man who made a fortune in London but did not forget his home.

The space below the schoolroom was once used as a butter market, but although the schoolboys and the market women have long since ceased to use this interesting building it still stands in a perfect state of preservation.

It has half-timbered walls and gables and ornamental boards all being supported on round wooden arches with pillars resting on stone piers.—E. J. EPHICK, Rocks Farm, Staplecross, Sussex.

WARNING TO THIEVES

SIR.—I have recently received from a relative "stationed somewhere in Arabia" this photograph, which at first it is rather difficult to decipher. He writes: "It is the hand of a goat thief, hung up on a branch by a road which runs by a British-occupied camp, as a warning to other thieves. I have not seen the ceremony but might when I go back there. It is done by a big black slave type of executioner with a dinner knife (said to have been scrounged from a sunken ship of long ago, though I don't think that is true). The offender's relations are allowed to have a bowl of boiling fish oil ready into which he thrusts the stump. In most cases however they are too lazy to have it boiling. The result is that the wound is not sealed and the thief bleeds to death. At all the wells and cross-tracks in this particular place you always find a hand."—ELIZABETH STEWART, Crouch End, N.8.

TRAVELLING WITH A PACK OF HOUNDS 100 YEARS AGO

SIR.—Part of the original diary of the huntsman (or kennelman) to a Doctor Haines of Eversley, Hampshire, in which is described his journey with a pack of hounds from Eversley,

Hampshire, to Fort William in Scotland and back a hundred years ago has been shown me by the writer's grand-daughter, who also possesses his horn and whip. The writing, which has now faded to a pale brown, is in a good, legible hand, and although the writer had a flair for capital letters and there is little punctuation, the story is interesting and quite readable. It will be noticed that Birmingham is spelt "Birnigam"—just as he probably pronounced it no doubt, and as it is pronounced by a very large number of people to-day.

Some of your hunting readers may have heard their fathers or grandfathers talk of this adventure.



THE WARNING HAND

See letter: Warning to Thieves

I have copied the diary word for word, just as it was written. It runs as follows:

Travelling to Scotland. Augst 6 1814 started From West Cott to Scotland About 6 O Clock. got up to Winsor just As the Horse Barrks Clock struck 12. 7th to London At 11 o Clock. At Upton Station from thee Station At 1 o clock By the Rail Way to Birnigam Arrived at Birnigam At 7 o clock took the Mail Train from Birnigam to Liverpool. Lodged At Hotel Inn that night Went down to Clarence Docks to thee Stean Boat with The Dogs and

THE TITS' HOME: FRONT ELEVATION AND INTERIOR

See letter: A Flower-pot Full



THE LIBRARY STAFF

(Back Row)—Richard Hunt (Law); Jim Hawkes (Architecture); Peter Moir (Technical); Ronny Ashford (Technical); Pet Verity (Technical); Dorriean Belson (Technical); Bob Currier (Engineering); Tommy Spiers (Technical); Brian Bell (Technical); Jack Tayler (Technical); Andrew Biggar (Agricultural).

(Front Row)—Arthur Fleet; John Buxton (Deputy Librarian—Technical); E. M. Viney; Duncan Ranking (Fiction); Tony Rothlee (Assistant Education Officer); Pat Heenan (Assistant Education Officer).

See letter: *At Oflag VII B*

the Lugage came Back And Had My Dinner Went Back to the Boat again the Boat Left The Docks About 6 o'clock That afternoon. It was A very Rough Night there was A great Many sea sick But Myself was not 9th Arrived at Greenock In Scotland about 6 o'clock In thee Afternoon Stayed At Greenock

the same day. Travil from Scotland.—GEO. E. ALLEN, Hungerford, Berkshire.

WOODWORK OF THE RESTORATION

SIR.—Your article on the chapel at Red House, Moor Monkton, 7 miles



A WASTEFUL STACKSIDE

See letter: *Waste on the Farm*

that night At The Tontine Inn. 10th Started from Greenock At 10 o'clock In A Steam Boat to Lockgalehead had a Cart And took our Lugage About 8 miles My Master and Myself walked then We too A ferry over the Wauter About 3 miles to Inverea then we took Another Cart to Dalmilly Stayed there that night 11th Started with A cart Sunday with our Dogs And Lugage 26 Miles to Oban Stayed there that Night In the morning 12th took A Steam Boat At 10 o'clock to Fortwilliam 30 Miles then to Corpach 3 miles. We Left the Steam Boat and took A small one 1 mile and then we had 4 miles to Walk to the Cottage.

Travil from Scotland. Oct 10 Started from Blaick Cottage in Scotland to England. I took the dogs and Lugage in A Cart to Comasangoor ferry Across the Wauter a Bout 3 miles to Ft. William cottage There that night. 11 in the morning Took Steam Boat at 5 o Clock to the Crenian Canal then took the Crack Boat 9 miles to Another Steam Boat To Glasgow got there At 8 o clock that night Stayed At the Angle Inn that night. In the morning 11 o clock Took thee steam to go to Liverpool Arived on Sunday 13 At Liverpool At 3 o clock then took a Cart And Lugage to An Inne near the Railway station tok the Train at 1/2 past 8 to go to London. Arived At 6 o clock in the morning 14th At London then took Cab and Lugage to Paddington Station took Train at 8 o clock to go Reading. Arived at Reading At 10 o clock then I And thee Dogs Walked home and Left the Lugage and Charles Barr went After it

N.W. of York, illustrates what is probably the most southerly example of a school of 17th-century wood carvers, whose chief patron was John Cosen, Bishop of Durham from the Restoration in 1660 to 1674. From 1626 to 1644 he was rector of Branceth, 5 miles S.W. of Durham, where there is much interesting contemporary woodwork. As bishop he placed some magnificent woodwork in the cathedral, where, since Wyatt's dismantling of the choir screen, the magnificent font cover is the chief relic, in the castle chapel (then the bishop's palace) and in the chapel of the palace at Bishop Auckland.

Similar woodwork occurs at Sedgefield (between Durham and Stockton) and Haughton-le-Skerne near Darlington. One of the outstanding characteristics of this woodwork is its conservative nature. Some of the tracery on the font cover in Durham Cathedral is definitely Gothic in spirit, and the bench-ends at Haughton and at Red House and elsewhere are strongly reminiscent of mediaeval poppy-heads.—J. SALMON, 3, Clifton Road, Winchester, Hampshire.

A WORCESTERSHIRE CARVING

SIR.—High up in the north wall of Leigh Church, in Worcestershire, is a remarkably fine carved figure of Christ. It is by far the better of the only two of an early date remaining in the county, all others having been destroyed by the Puritans. This figure dates from the eleventh century, the whole work being typically early Norman. The shape of the pilasters is identical with those in the Syle of Worcester Cathedral, and the arch



"BOOK" STAFF (DEALING WITH PARCELS)

(Back Row)—Donald Jackson (Lancashire Fusiliers); Douglas Fisher (Cameron Highlanders); Tony Southall (Carabiniers); Anthony Bourne (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Lt. Inf.); Tony Chambers (Lothians and Border Horse); Douglas Reith (51st Div. Signals); Joe Carry (51st Div. Signals).

(Front Row)—Roger Stewart (51st Div. R.A.S.C.); Plug Harrington (Lancashire Fusiliers); E. M. Viney (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Lt. Inf.); Edward Gremeson (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders); Sandy Jenkins (Argyll and Sutherland H.).

See letter: *At Oflag VII B*

above is of plainer, and earlier, design than the so-called "dog-tooth" pattern so often found on Norman arches.

The figure is about 4 ft. high. In the left hand is a staff surmounted by a square cross and the right hand also holds something but it is impossible now to say what it is, though it looks like a flower of some sort. The finest part of the work, however, is the face, which is the work of a master. Even now, after over 800 years of exposure to the elements, one cannot but be struck by the beauty and nobility of the countenance.—RALPH A. SMITH, Worcester.

AT OFLAG VII B

SIR.—The two photographs enclosed are of the Library and "Book" Staffs of Oflag VII B, of which my son is in charge. If you have not already received them from somebody else, you might like to publish them in COUNTRY LIFE, as so many people are interested. I have written out the names as correctly as I can.—CHAS. V. VINEY, 52, Long Acre, W.C.2.

WASTE ON THE FARM

SIR.—Everyone in the countryside is doubtless aware that with the greatly increased area under cereal crops farmers have often found it difficult

to make satisfactory use of the straw. Oat straw in the natural state is a valuable fodder; barley and wheat straw may be converted into pulp fodder; any straw may be trodden into manure for return to the fields; and straw may also be ploughed under and its decomposition expedited by the use of sulphate of ammonia. Composting is a further outlet.

With all these possibilities there is nevertheless very considerable waste, and on some large farms one may see this around almost any stack and in many fields. Straw is baled—and left too long exposed to the weather. Loose straw, cavings and chaff lie about in heaps, and the waste is considerable. An even worse result is that a large area so covered remains unused when the next crop is sown. The enclosed photograph speaks for itself: it was taken from a roadside gateway.

Admittedly labour has much to do with this state of affairs, but not everything, for almost any farmer would admit that it has always been more or less prevalent. Is it not time, with all our advanced knowledge, for something to be done about it? If we save paper, let us also save straw and use it well.—H. C. LONG, 63, Manor Road North, Esher, Surrey.



A BEAUTIFUL 11TH-CENTURY CARVING AT LEIGH
WORCESTERSHIRE

See letter: *A Worcestershire Carving*

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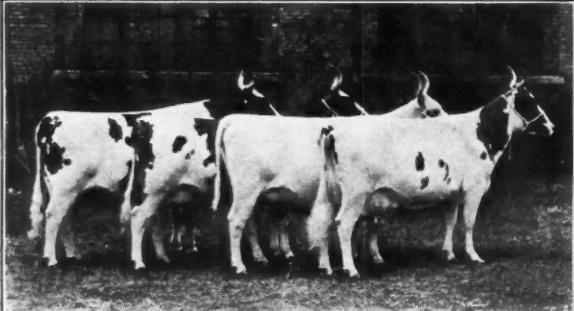
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Information from HUGH BONE, Secretary,
Ayrshire Cattle Herd Book Society,
58 Alloway Street, AYR, Scotland.

FARMING NOTES

PRICES AND AN INCREASE IN CATTLE

CATTLE PRICES at the levels which have been ruling since the Autumn do not give farmers the confidence they would like to feel in the expansion of the livestock side of farming. I am thinking, as the ordinary farmer must, of commercial cattle prices and not of the astronomical figures that are still being reached at some of the pedigree sales. They have no significance for the farmer who has his livelihood to make. Indeed such extreme prices do harm by making the townsman think that farming is highly prosperous and that farmers have money to fling about. It is the market prices of ordinary store cattle that have been disconcerting to the man who is looking forward to increasing his cattle.

Lack of Keep

THE immediate reason for these lower prices is no doubt the lack of keep in many districts. The 1944 hay crop was light, and there is barely enough decent hay to go round for the dairy cows, leaving little to spare for young stock. It is this shortage of keep which has made many farmers sell more of their store cattle in the last few months and made others reluctant to buy. Probably there will be a revival of interest in the Spring when the grass begins to grow. It may be said that the prices of dairy heifers two years ago were too high. Certainly any animal showing milking qualities commanded its full value. General farmers with a milking herd among their other activities were ready to pay good prices for good animals. To-day they have not so much cash to spare and the numbers of dairy heifers reared have steadily increased.

Reasonable Prices

PERSONALLY, I think it is all to the good that a more reasonable level of prices for down-calving heifers is established now. Many of the smaller herds in the country depend on being able to buy regular replacements, and, if market prices for heifers are out of proportion to the income from milk sales, these farmers must think twice or three times before they buy replacements. I consider too that the level of store-cattle prices now does allow the feeder the prospect of making a profit, or at least breaking even, with beef stores that he is feeding through the Winter. So I cannot subscribe to the view, often expressed, that the cattle prices now ruling are a deterrent to the expansion of livestock which we all want to see.

Oat Straw for Cattle

ON several farms this Winter I have noticed that yearling cattle are doing well on oat straw with some hay only as an occasional tit-bit. Much depends of course on the condition of the oat straw and also I think on the type of threshing machine that is used. I have found that oat straw that has been through a peg drum thresher is more palatable and cleared up much more readily by yearlings than oat straw coming from the standard machine. The peg drum breaks up the straw, and it may be this physical condition that makes it more acceptable. On other counts the peg drum thresher has advantages over the standard type. Four men can easily look after the threshing. It can be done by three, but when the grain is coming off the machine fairly fast it is better I think to have two men on the sacks weighing them off. A good feeder who will keep up a regular flow of sheaves into the machine is essential and a second man on the rick moving the sheaves across

to the man who is feeding makes up the team. This is a considerable saving of labour compared with the standard threshing machine.

Saving Labour

THE straw is blown up into a heap and needs no immediate handling. I say immediate handling because it must be dealt with somehow later. We have been baling our oat straw threshed in this way as a separate job. Dividing the job into two like this has meant that we have been able to manage with our own strength without borrowing men from outside. A good plan, I have found, is to make a straw yard for cattle up against the wheat ricks. At threshing, wheat straw can be blown straight into the straw yard without any handling. I am not sure how much these per drum threshers cost. The one we use is hired from the War Agricultural Committee.

Building Straw Yards

STRAW yards made up with bales of straw to form the walls 5 ft. or 6 ft. high are becoming quite a common sight in my part of the country. The cattle do well in them, better of course in a dry Winter than in the kind of weather we had through November and December. But they can always get shelter at one side or other of the pen and generally seem able to get a dry bed up against one of the walls. It is not just enough to set one of the bales on top of another and hope for the best. They need to be reinforced. Cattle are liable to get bored or playful and to buffet the straw bales. If they give way down goes the wall and away go the cattle. I have found it best to have posts and wire outside the wall of bales. Strong posts and three strands of wire will keep the bales from bulging outwards. I prefer this to wire, either strands or netting, inside the baled yard, because cattle are so liable to get their horns entangled or to put their feet through the wire and get tied up that way. It is a good plan to apply a creosote to the inside surface of the bales. This stops the cattle pulling at the straw. This creosoting can be easily done with a spraying machine of the type ordinarily used for applying whitewash. Creosote used in this way is quite harmless; in fact it is salutary because, as I have found, it helps to check ringworm, which is always liable to appear among young cattle housed in the Winter.

Too Perfect Leys

WE have talked and thought so much about leys and the particular grasses and clovers that should be used in the seed mixtures that some of us have rather forgotten the supplementary plants that make up the sward in a really good old pasture. Some of these new leys are too "perfect." In other words there is not enough variety. I was interested to hear Sir George Stapledon speaking up for the dandelion. Robert Elliot, the pioneer of ley farming fifty years ago, was great advocate of chicory and burnet in the seed mixtures he used. I do not know whether Sir George Stapledon will now go so far as to include the dandelion in the seed mixtures he recommends. I fancy not, because all too often dandelion survives through two or three grain crops and appears readily enough in young leys when the field is seeded to grass again. But this matter of variety is something that is worth bearing in mind when appraising the value of young leys. We do not want to see only the species that we have sown in the seed mixture.

CINCINNATUS.

THE ESTATE MARKET**SPECULATORS IN DAMAGED PROPERTY**

IN DIRECT confirmation of the opinion expressed in these columns, that there is not much speculative dealing in war-damaged property, is afforded by the small number of applications received by the War Damage Commission in cases where war damage "value" payments are taken over by a purchaser. The consent of the Commission must be obtained whenever a buyer acquires an assignment of the right to receive the "value" payment. But no notice need be given to the Commission if the transaction is such that the vendor retains the right to the "value" payment. That the speculator does not find dealings in war-damaged property very attractive is not surprising, for the prospect of a quick return on his expenditure is unlikely, and unless large ultimate profits are probable, a speculator would not willingly incur the trouble and expense of trying to get the requisite sanctions from the multifarious controllers of building and materials.

To say that speculators have burned their fingers in the last four or five years is understating what has happened to some of them. Ventures in the acquisition of interests in London and other urban property for redevelopment were in many instances sterilised when war broke out. The result proved very disastrous; the pecuniary loss apart from the loss of time and money in litigation, left some of the venturers with little else than the consolatory thought that but for the war all would have been well, and that nobody could accuse them of having made a "rash and hazardous" speculation.

THE SPECULATOR'S LEAN YEARS

IT is so easy to raise a hue and cry against buyers of property by stigmatising them as "profiteers" and "speculators." During the last twelve months, if we have had one we have had a hundred letters alleging hardship through the machinations of the property speculator. A good many of those complaints carry their own refutation on the face of them. All that has happened has been that the complainant has been outbid at a perfectly fair and honest auction. Sometimes the complaint goes a bit further, to wit, that, after buying the property, the purchaser has refused to sell it. So he is a "speculator" out for profit, and, that being assumed, it is an easy step for the aggrieved and disappointed bidder to urge that legislative means should be found to prevent such happenings. How these means should be embodied in an Act of Parliament they never even suggest. Actually the highest bidder is often by no means financially stronger than the disappointed attendant at an auction. Scores of cases can be recalled where, setting out to the sale with fullest intention to acquire property, an unaccustomed would-be buyer has been seized with a sort of inability to make a bid. Sometimes this has been because he was too interested in merely watching one or two other competitors, oftener because he thought the price had soared too high, and that he would get a chance to buy it privately. Whatever the reason of his disappointment it behoves him to put up with it without hurling accusations of "profiteering."

THE MARKET ITS OWN SAFEGUARD

THE dice are heavily loaded today against the mere speculator in real property. In some branches of finance speculation has been practically wiped out by the rules of the exchanges. In regard to speculation

in real estate the same end has been reached by the normal play of the market, apart from any effect of Acts and Orders. In pre-war days large profits could often be made without incurring any risk. Large landed estates were put into the market by owners who preferred to leave to someone else the task of bargaining with tenants and others. Some such deals were carried through with extraordinary rapidity, and the conditions of sale incorporated in the auction particulars not infrequently specified that the conveyance of various lots would be direct from the original owner, the intermediary, who purported to sell the property, not figuring eventually at all in the formal deeds. Nowadays the intermediary is no longer necessary. The original owner can get the full price of what he has to offer, from either one buyer who contemplates residence or investment, or from many buyers. The speculator enjoys no marginal difference out of which to remunerate himself while everything is saleable at top prices. In addition there is the virtual impossibility of obtaining temporary financial co-operation to meet the contingencies of a deal. In short, speculation in real estate is hampered in so many ways that the speculator may soon be saying, with Othello, that's "our occupations gone." It is but fair to add that before the war speculative buying and reselling of landed property had its uses, both to owners and would-be buyers of particular lots, and that it stimulated interest in property in a dull period.

THE EARL FITZWILLIAM'S FARMS

OF the 20 lots of the Earl Fitzwilliam's Petersfield and Liss portions—in all 317 acres—of the Basing Park estate, Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley in conjunction with Messrs. Hewett and Lee, sold 15 at the auction for a total of £26,410. Naturally the reports of the result fastened on to one lot of nearly 7 acres, as it realised just over £780 an acre. To suppose that this represented the market value of land at Steep, would be to overlook the fact that the growing timber on every lot was included in the purchase price under the hammer. The 7 acres, called Warren Copse, Steep, carry a great quantity of matured oak trees, now of great value, and deep beds of sand are believed to exist there. Looking ahead the agents suggested that after the felling of the timber the land would form a fine site for one or two residences.

"BY AUCTION ONLY"

PRIVATE negotiations beforehand had been ruled out, the particulars stating that the sale would be "by auction only." Consequently there was no diminution of interest. Something beyond agricultural value is comprised in the figures for the farms, the land having long main-road frontages and a high probability of eventual development, building having, indeed, made progress before 1939. Buckmoor Farm, 53 acres, with house and buildings, and 900 feet of frontage to the Winchester road, realised £5,000; and another lot was Borough Farm-buildings and 17 acres, near Petersfield station, for £3,400.

Not so many farms as usual have been under the hammer in the last week, but prices have been well maintained, and the chief sales have again been in Lincolnshire. One notable transaction was the sale of The Grange Farm, 356 acres, with house and buildings and three or four cottages, at Thornton-le-Fen, for £14,000, by order of executors. **ARBITER.**

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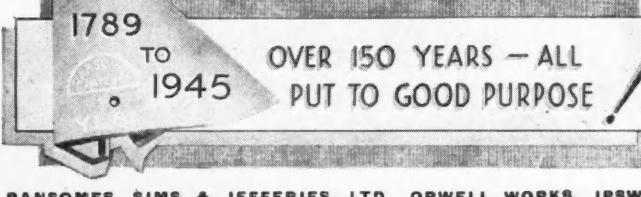
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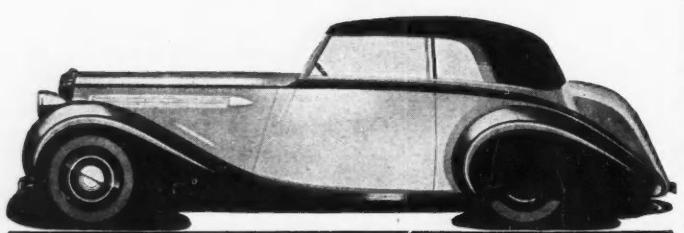
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NEW BOOKS**"Q" ON HIMSELF**

Reviews by HOWARD SPRING

WHEN "Q" died he was writing his autobiography. This was not a work which he took up precipitately. Indeed, in 1930, writing to a friend, he declared: "There ain't going to be no reminiscences, never—never"; and it took him six years to make the next step. This was a promise to "perpend' a bit"; and when he had "perpended" for another two years he decided to go ahead with the task. After that, something like six years passed before his death; and in that time he produced the small book *Memories and Opinions* now published by the Cambridge University

Press (6s.). There are just a hundred pages of it, dealing with some of his ancestors and carrying his own story up to the point where "I there set out a quire of virgin folio paper, and sat down to write the first chapter of my first novel."

HIS TASK BEGUN

The sentence has a feeling of fitness and completion. Since death had to interrupt the work, that was a good place to do it. The unconscious and then purposeful preparation of boyhood and youth was ended: the task was embraced. It is almost to be regretted that to this conclusion the Editor has added a few pages found among Q's papers but not finally passed by him. They carry the story forward to the moment when this first novel, *Dead Man's Rock*, was published.

I have no means of knowing how Q, as a novelist, stands with the present generation of readers, but it is my impression that his popularity has declined. If that is so, it is a pity, for his novels were of excellent quality considered as tales, and far above the average considered as writing. But even if the old man, spending his declining years in his beloved Cornish town of Fowey, had ceased to affect many by his novels, his influence must, even to this day, strongly remain in the minds and the literary conduct of those who sat under him as a lecturer at Cambridge. The lectures there delivered, happily preserved and published, reveal a mind of singular felicity and a heart as well removed as a human heart may be from corruption. One is impressed by his sense of the importance of standards, vital points of reference, both in writing and in living; and the essential thing about the book now under review is that it covers the time when those standards were displayed to the boy in the lives of those about his early years, were at first breathed like his native air, then apprehended, then consciously adopted as his own measurement of living.

Speaking of his schooldays at Clifton, he says: "We were caught up in a cult of Roman stoicism and service suffused with Christianity; and some of us suffered. But this, too, resulted in some fine by-products—

notably an Arnoldian consciousness of moral responsibility (too precocious perhaps) with a certain puritan scorn of defilement in conduct or speech." This scorn of defilement, never intolerant, and directed to his own practice rather than to that of others, is the note that sounds through all Q's critical work.

Following here the story of the boy's early years, one sees that he did not have to wait for Clifton before imbibing a view of life which combined scientific integrity with the grace of the arts. His grandfather, a doctor practising in Polperro, was the author and illustrator of a classic work

on the fishes of the British Isles, and something of a "character" to boot, as he "strode his domain as its unchallengeable great man, in top hat, high white stock, long black coat, and, until past middle age, black breeches and silver-buckled shoes—a costume which forfeited no dignity as he would sit, after his wont, on an inverted fish-basket by the quay, with brush and paint-box ready and the eye of an osprey on the nets, should perchance they discharge something rare, however minute."

This man's son, Q's father, practised medicine in Bodmin, where the boy was born, his mother being an attractive (and for a time a wealthy) Devon woman. But the money was contingent on her father's continued prosperity, and that declined, so that at the end Q, himself now married, throwing a happy rash defiance in fortune's face, is the breadwinner for quite a small community.

BOYHOOD AND BOOKS

The early days in Bodmin and in the Devon grandfather's lovely country house are beautifully recalled and recorded. Books entered soon into the boy's life, for the father was a bookish man and the vehicle in which he drove upon his medical rounds had the seat "incommodeed with books. In these he would read, either walking behind, if the hill were steep, having handed the reins to me, or on an easier ascent letting the reins lie loose while he read aloud beside me. As his favourites would be Sir Thomas Browne, Shelley, Lamb and Carlyle—a mixed bag!—it may be guessed that I understood little: but what I did take away was a boyish conviction that to be a man of letters was one of the finest things in the world."

Spilled out of the vehicle one day by an accident, the boy found himself reclining among the hedge-row brambles, reading a book that had rolled out with him. It was *The Tempest*: his first reading of Shakespeare. So casually does Fate offer a hand to those who are ready to take it!

"A book," Q writes here, "populates two courtesies, the reader's and the writer's." It is a characteristic reflection. He is courteous enough

here to give us the finest of his style, to be reticent where reticence is called for, and frank where a little emphasis is needed. In its final task, his hand lost none of its surety.

THE LUCKY FISHERMAN

Another childhood story, but more circumscribed, is Mr. A. R. B. Haldane's *The Path by the Water*, which is charmingly illustrated with wood engravings by Helen Monroe (Nelson, 15s.). The book takes us from the author's earliest years in Scotland up to his entering Winchester, and it is circumscribed because its chief object is to tell about trout-fishing.

Not many anglers can begin with Mr. Haldane's alarming precocity and speak of their ventures with the rod "during the summer preceding my fifth birthday"! But, as a fisherman, Mr. Haldane was most fortunately placed. He lived among fishermen and he lived among fish. His father's gardener was a fisherman, and even his nurse was a fisherman, or fisherwoman, and it was she who superintended those earliest ventures with a worm for bait and a bamboo-cane for rod.

The country south of Auchterarder is full of burns threading the hills, and this is the country the author mainly celebrates. He was soon advanced beyond the worm and bamboo stage, ranging the hills with his brother and getting to know every burn and bank. So ardent a fishing family was this that they not only went to the trout but brought the trout to them. Mr. Haldane's father had an embankment built on his estate to dam water into a loch, and there the trout were plentifully bred.

When Autumn came, the house in the hills was closed and the family moved into its Edinburgh house for the Winter. The boy hated this Edinburgh sojourn. It "seemed like the approach of a dark tunnel . . . there seemed little hope left." Looking back on it now, he makes what I take to be one of the monumental misstatements of contemporary writing. "It seems very clear that we entirely failed to make the best of what was after all a very normal and tolerably happy situation."

"Very normal" to have a splendid house in the hills for the Summer and a town house for the Winter, with one servant to dig your worms and another to cut your sandwiches, with Christmas visits to the great house of Cloan where Uncle Lord Haldane lived "in an atmosphere of cigarette-smoke, red-covered dispatch boxes and high affairs"? No, indeed: this is not "very normal": this is a privileged position enjoyed by few, and if the author has not realised it, the reader at least will hardly fail to be impressed by it on every page.

ARTHUR BRYANT'S HISTORY

Those who keep abreast of contemporary historical writing can hardly have failed to read Mr. Arthur Bryant's *The Years of Endurance: 1793-1802*, in which he celebrates the English achievement that ended with the Peace of Amiens. From that point he takes the story forward in his new book *Years of Victory: 1802-1812* (Collins, 12s. 6d.).

His theme now is the ending of the interregnum during which the ministry of Addington followed the policy of "appeasing" Napoleon, the flaring up afresh of the war, the retirement of Addington and the return of Pitt, the years when England faced Napoleon alone, the years of Trafalgar and Wellington's drive into Spain. Late after these mighty single-

handed achievements, England found allies—but all that: the desperate and fatal thrust of the Emperor into Russia, Elba, Waterloo, St. Helena belongs to another part of the story which Mr. Bryant will tell in a later book. This completed trilogy, when we have it, will be among the most notable popular historical works of our time; and the word popular is here used in no derogatory sense, but to suggest that Mr. Bryant, like Macaulay, writes with a vigour and a picturesque diction which, so far from detracting from the soundness of his work, adds to its scholarship an immense readability.

THE PEOPLE'S PART

The thing which, above all others, I like in Mr. Bryant's work is his sense of the outlook of the common people upon the great events with which he deals. It happens that the period dealt with is singularly rich in travellers' tales, diaries, memoirs, letters and broadsheet caricatures. It is in such things as these that contemporary opinion, feeling, passion and prejudice are best to be discerned, and there seems no hole or corner of this great source of life and colour that Mr. Bryant has not explored. He is able to tell us, for example, that as Nelson's fleet was moving to battle with Villeneuve's "Codrington of the Orion was sitting down to a leg of turkey, and Cumby, the first lieutenant of the *Bellerophon*, was piping the ship's company to dinner."

This is not to play lightly with great matters. It is to be aware that no matter is greater than the life of the common people.

EARLY WELSH HOUSES

THE WELSH HOUSE: A Study in Folk Culture (The Brython Press, 10s. 6d.), by Iorwerth C. Peate, Keeper of the Department of Folk Culture and Industries in the National Museum of Wales, will become the text book for the study of traditional Welsh house-forms, comparable to those by Innocent and Addy for England. Wales never developed an architecture—English and Continental forms were introduced for all buildings above the "folk" level. Therefore, primitive types of housing long continued in Wales, in a few instances to the present time. The derivation of the stone bee-hive pigsties, for example, a few of which still stand, can be traced to the circular huts widely found on early Iron-Age sites, and paralleled not only in other Celtic lands but in the prehistory of western and Mediterranean Europe. The Welsh Laws, compiled in the tenth century and evidently recording earlier usage, specify a primitive form of cruck construction, and also indicate dwellings as consisting of up to nine "houses"—perhaps a survival, in their separation, of the Iron-Age hut circles. The *hafod*s or Summer villages on the mountains preserved vestiges of this form of house till the early nineteenth century. But the oldest surviving inhabited houses are of the next evolutionary stage, the "long house," into which the components of the Laws house were combined in the early Middle Ages. While incorporating various Welsh peculiarities, these were generally akin to the lower grades of the hall-houses prevailing in England before Tudor times. The most advanced type of Welsh house, however, is the stone-built farm-house of Pembrokeshire, with its massive circular chimney, high ridge roof, and characteristic lean-tos on either side below its eaves. The recesses, or bays, so formed off the main rooms are related by Mr. Peate to those between the crucks of wood-built halls, of which he establishes that these Pembrokeshire houses are derivations translated into stonework.

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NECKLINES in the News

EVERYWHERE it is the neckline that is the high point of fashion. Dresses have flat round necklines and shallow yokes, seamed or flapped elaborately, and fasten down the back; or the yokes run into the dress with mitred ends and pleats below, when there may be small rounded revers and they button down the centre front. On the softer type of dress, the round flat neckline circling the base of the throat vies with the one that is cut out into a square, wedge, or heart shape, all kept close to the throat; or the neckline is scooped well away and either banded or piped or tied with a drawstring, or filled in with a white dickey. The open-necked shirt type of collar is also shown but it generally has a second collar as well, white or pastel, or a fringed one with the fringe continuing down the front.

White piqué collars and dickey fronts, white butterfly bows on breast pockets or on the waistline, white piping streaming down both sides of a frock or outlining a side fastening, white tabs like a Bluecoat boy's—these are some of the crisp touches that have the effect of making the Spring clothes look very debonair. The frocks themselves are navy or cinnamon woollens, canvas weave rayons, neat black and white dice-checked worsteds, suitings in browns and banana, lightweight mushroom-coloured wool crépes, clerical grey worsteds, black.



The halter decolletage on a black crepe dress with short cape sleeves and a plastic gold belt and bar buttons.
Debenham and Freebody

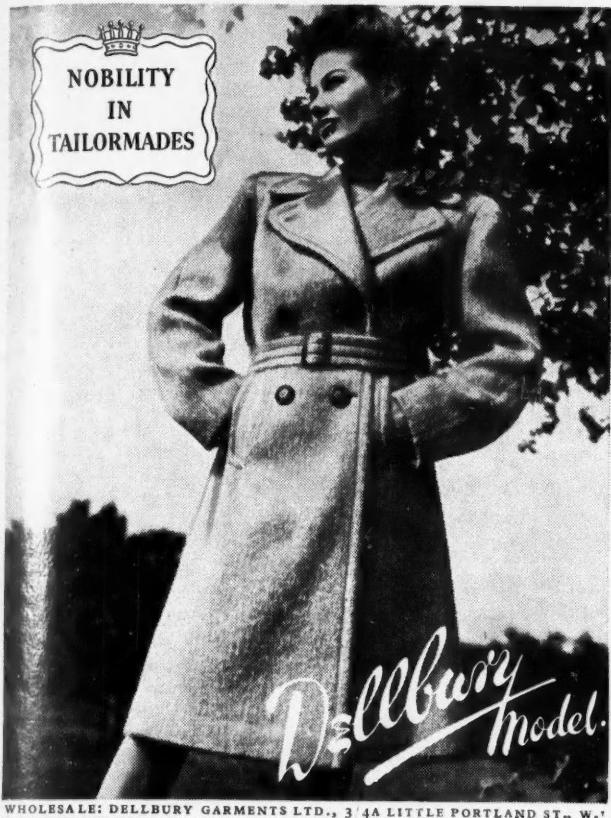


The evening blouse in mist blue crepe with round yoke and long full sleeves. *Digby Morton*

For Summer frocks, there are superfine cottons printed in traditional Paisley patterns with the soft mercerised finish of a man's superlative shirting, Moyashels printed in Paisley or daisy dot patterns; spun rayon crépes with an all-over design of tiny chessmen, hat boxes, jewelled clips, or dots the size of a sixpence; herring-bone rayons with the handle of silk; checked Egyptian cotton ginghams; and stripes of every dimension in wool, cotton, rayon, spun rayon and mixtures—candy stripes, pin stripes, rope stripes, broad stripes, feather-stitching stripes and floral stripes.

In the collection of "Jersey-de-Luxe" the street dresses are outstanding. Plain navy blue jumper suits have knife-pleated fronts to the jumper, straight skirts and white collars. Woollen dresses with long sleeves have the front only tucked to a chevron in the centre or a shallow shoulder yoke and broad horizontal tucks below. The rest of the dress is plain. There are dresses that look like jumper suits by virtue of the tucked flaps set in below the waist either side in front that look like patch pockets. These are made in worsteds, mostly bird-eye designs or minute checks, or in pastel-coloured honeycomb jersey. Aquamarine and grey is a charming colour combination for a jersey, new this season. There is a black and white check coatfrock with a superb matching topcoat lined with black satin which has two deep pockets with the top of the flaps resting on the waistline and a gored waistline fitting it to the figure.

A series of black crepe dresses with puffed Holbein sleeves make a completely new silhouette. They have draped tops and fullness placed in front of the skirts. Prints include a plum, crimson, peacock blue and cream of the Paisley family design made into a jumper suit with fluted basque in front. A swallow-tail plumed bustle effect is shown on a smart black wool-crêpe dinner frock. Black is shown with cactus green, palest ice blue and mushroom. A warm tobacco brown is a newcomer among the dress and jacket ensembles in woollen crépes. White piqué emphasises the dashing



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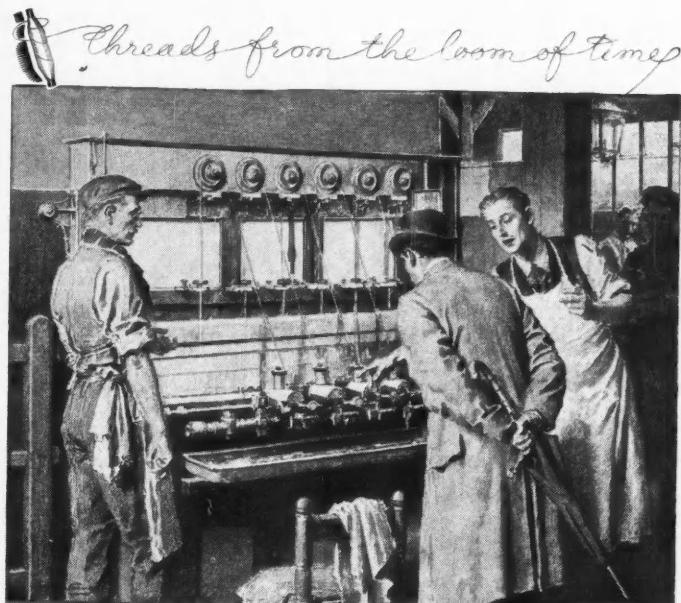
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rayon was made available to the public. Viewed from present-day standards, these first rayon materials seem but poor travesties of the lovely supple, shimmering fabrics so popular before the war. It is one of to-day's necessary hardships that Courtaulds rayon is scarce, but with the return of Peace, Courtaulds rayons will again be obtainable in even greater variety than before. In addition, new developments in other spheres are being perfected to add to the amenities of modern living.

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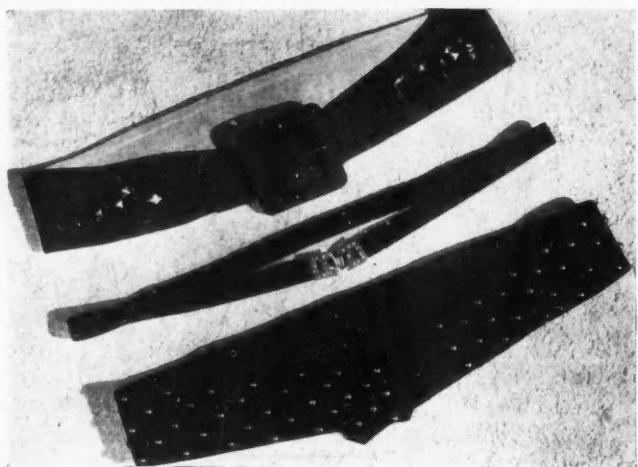
Coral pink bead necklace with a cluster of coral, pearl and gold flowers. A gold neck clip hung with pearls. Harrods

with rose pinks, crimson and fawns with a high round neckline and a back fastening. Round sequin buttons and a tie belt twinkled on one that was mostly salmon pink. A group of checked ginghams had circular skirts cut on the cross, and the checks used all ways on the bodices. One in shades of mauve had a plain mauve button-through front and a check back. Dots the size of a sixpence were scattered all over a white print with a high neckline and a circular skirt. Skirts all

line of pocket flaps and pointed revers on jumpers, pipes each side of the front panel of knife pleats, or makes the collars of the many navy and black frocks included in the collection.

* * *

MATERIALS shown at the Trilnick Show included checked Scotch ginghams in violet, fir-tree green, crimson or nut brown with white; Paisley-printed cottons with a silky finish in mixed pastel pinks and blues; thick silk-surfaced rayons with a herring-bone weave in shades of steel greys and black; striped spun rayons, black and white or navy and white; sprigged rayons woven like a Shantung. The bustle back was shown in this collection in the most charming Paisley cotton of them all—pale sky blue printed



Belts from The White House: (top) midnight-blue suede with circles of blue sequins; (middle) black suede with a paste buckle; (bottom) black, navy, white or brown leather studded with gold

through this collection had wider hemlines than last Summer and barely covered the knees. Among the woolens I noticed a herring-bone Saxony tweed dress with a grey skirt and a top made in bars of three other shades of grey, fawn and russet brown in the same design. The darkest chestnut tone made the plain yoke with its round, plain neckline. Sleeves were short, as they were on most of the other dresses shown in the collection.

Clear vibrant shades predominate among the Summer clothes—the sky blues of a sunny Summer's day, scarlet, all the cinnamons, golden and rusty red shades, a clear silvery grey, rose beige, mushroom brown, geranium pinks and reds. The clothes are going into the shops earlier than usual, during March. This means shopping early for the Summer and coupons allocated for these from the next issue, as quotas are not large and the prettiest models vanish like the snow in the sunshine.

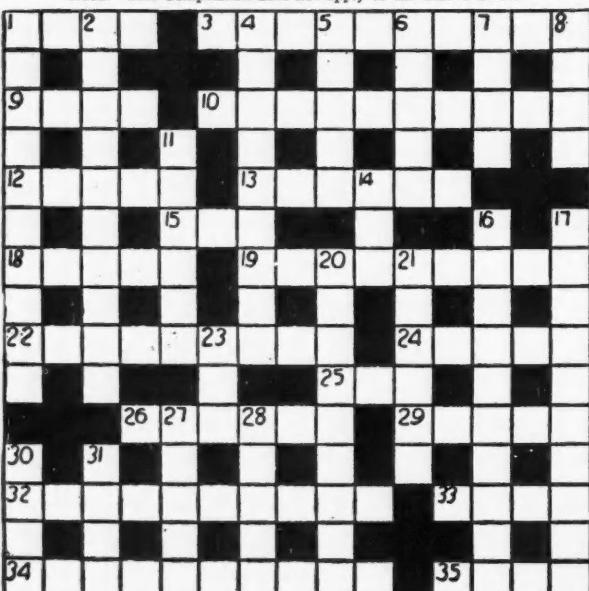
P. JOYCE REYNOLDS.

* * *

CROSSWORD No. 779

Two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 779, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than the first post on Thursday, January 4, 1945.

NOTE.—This Competition does not apply to the United States.



Name (Mr., Mrs., etc.)

Address

SOLUTION TO No. 778. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of December 22, will be announced next week.

ACROSS.—1, Merry men; 5, Canter; 9, Landlord; 10, Splits; 11, Open eyes; 13, Beggar; 14, Day; 16, Middle; 19, Merimée; 20, Wallet; 21, Age; 26, Panels; 27, Southsea; 28, Nutria; 29, Shaggier; 30, Easter; 31, Entrance. DOWN.—1, Milton; 2, Render; 3, Yelled; 4, Earned; 6, Apple-pie; 7, Twin gods; 8, Reserved; 12, Sayings; 15, Let; 16, Mew; 17, Twopence; 18, Old notes; 19, Mealtime; 22, Eothen; 23, Stager; 24, Ossian; 25, Barrie.

1. Utility wear in Ancient Britain? (4)
3. Companion of Fox and Tarrypin (4, 6)
5. Being on them one is said to be on 6 too (4)
9. Western almost by accident, it appears (10)
12. A kingdom was offered in exchange for him (5)

13. Occurrences originating with a woman (6)
15. Dawn (3)
18. Tries to get the ceremonial observances correct! (5)
19. Neither the smirk nor the hollow laugh provides it (4, 5)
22. The substance of flattery? (4, 5)
24. Useful for heaping coals of fire, or sugar once upon a time (5)
25. Only I (3)
26. Push (6)
29. One might extract a canary from this sticky situation (5)
32. Unreliable (3, 7)
33. Helen's is said to have launched a thousand ships (4)
34. Not the side for what's left (2, 3, 5)
35. "... the — is gone,
And there is nothing left remarkable
Beneath the visiting moon."

—Shakespeare (4)

DOWN.

1. Cunning in pursuit of a sorceress? (10)
2. It might perhaps describe Sheridan's to Scarborough (1, 5, 4)
4. Town and poet (9)
5. Elevate (5)
6. See 9 (5)
7. Be about it, then! (4)
8. Hazlitt's is the table variety (4)
11. Look, present and past in the playground (6)
14. Born in need (3)
16. Coming to a noble halt on the racecourse (5, 5)
17. Some of them have their Dark Lady (3, 7)
20. Qualifies him who disregards 25 (9)
21. Or most are locomotives (6)
23. He came from Bayeux (3)
27. Old sheriff (5)
28. A singer (5)
30. "Pray you, — this button."
—King Lear (4)

31. Let it stand (4)

The winner of Crossword No. 778 is

Mr. K. A. E. Hemblen,
19, Manor Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

BY APPOINTMENT TO H.M. KING GEORGE VI

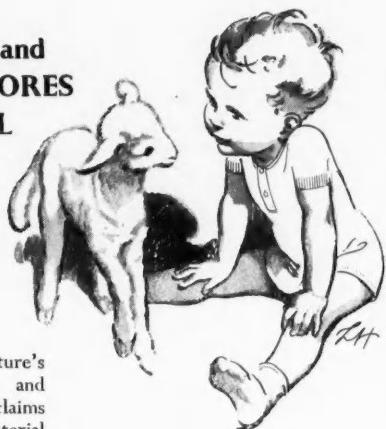
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